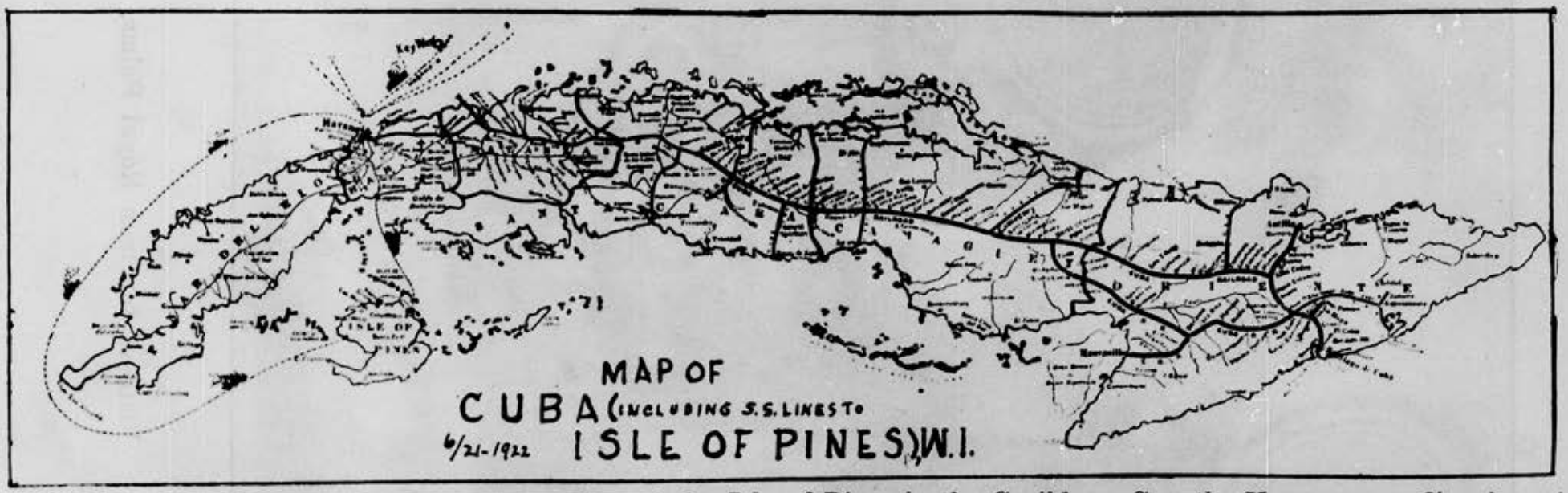
THE ISLAND YOU SHOULD KNOW

THE ISLE OF PINES

PRICE 75 CTS.

Vista of fourteen Royal Palms.



A Comprehensive Map, showing the location of the Isle of Pines in the Caribbean Sea, the Keys surrounding it and the relative position as compared with Pinar del Río.

THE ISLE OF PINES

(Illustrated).

A Review Of The Island Since
The Early Spanish Possession.

CONDITIONS AT THE DISCOVERY IMPROVEMENTS IN 1600-1700-1800 DEVELOPMENT IN 1900 AND THE PRESENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By

V. R. Tingle
Author of The Spanish and American
Florida, etc., etc.

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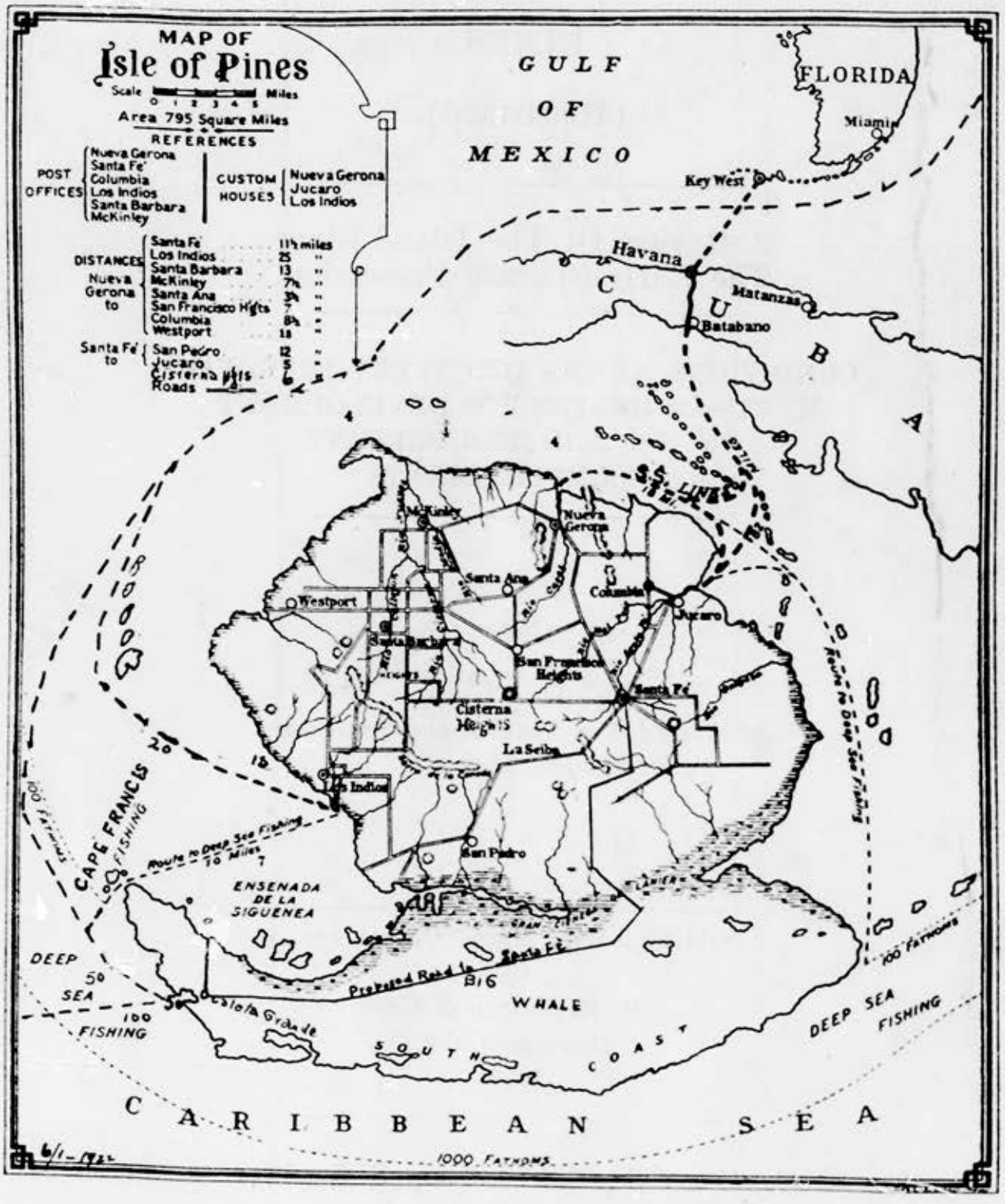

Regionalized Map of the Isle of Pines showing the various Districts; the Distances from Nueva Gerona and Santa Fe, including the Big Whale on the South Coast.

Upper left.—Modern Packing House. Lower left.—An Orange Grower's Residence on the Island.

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REMARKS

THE MANUSCRIPT set in the following pages was prompted by a few persons living in the United States owning property on the Isle of Pines. Requests for a book on the island depicting the actual present day conditions had been received, therefore, the author finally decided to visit the Isle of Pines for the purpose of such an undertaking. After several months of travel there this volume was commeneed.

For the information of the reader let it be understood that this book is written from an engineer's point of view thus portraying the island from that standpoint—a book of history, commerce and industry—based upon personal observations, research work and a digest from historical records.

This book, however, could not have been completed in its present form had it not been for the support of the older residents of the island, to whom the author is indebted for data and information so generously contributed, for which thanks are herein expressed.

To the business men of the island, those who so liberally supported the book (also the Chamber of Commerce) the author wishes to express his appreciation for their support.

The cruises of Linar, Piña and Tirry from the northern part of the island to the 'South Shore' (prior to 1800), and the story of "Treasure Island" written by Robert Louis Stevenson (which seems to have been laid there) had created a desire to visit that mysterious land and I am pleased because of that cruise.

The Author.

Habana, 9/1. 1922.

PREFACE

IN 1849 RAMON DE PIÑA, Spanish geologist and military advisor to the Governor General of Havana, visited the Isle of Pines and in 1850 completed the manuscript of a book containing two hundred and fifty pages. In his manuscript there is some valuable information regarding the geology and flora of the island. This gentleman explored the North and South Shores and it is evident his observations there covered a period of nearly a year. The book was no doubt read by R. G. Caldwell, who wrote the "Lopez Expedition to Cuba in 1848-1851" published in London in 1915. A. G. Robinson in his "Cuba Old and New" published in London 1916, and Fiske's "History of the Islands of the West Indian Archipelago" made some mention of the Isle of Pines, but following the ideas of I. A. Wright in her "Early History of Cuba 1492-1586" published in London 1917, there appears but scant information in those books (excepting Piña's copy and the U. S. Government book "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines" published in 1906, as elsewhere referred to in this volume) on the Isle of Pines—that is, information absolutely reliable. There are six official and twenty non-official books on Cuba referred to by Sir John Scott Keltie, editor of "Historical Annals of the World". The names of the most prominent authors are: Atkins (J. B.), Caldwell (R. G.), Clark (W. J.), Davey (R.), Ewart (F. C.), Fiske (A. K.), Johnson (W. F.), Musgrave (G. C.), Parker (W. B.), Piron (H.), Porter (R. P.), Robinson (A. G.), Roosevelt (Th.), Rowan (A. S.), Trelles (C. M.), Valdis Roig (L.).

The reports which have been written upon the Isle of Pines since Piña's Survey for the Spanish, 1850, and Willard Hayes U. S. A. (appearing in "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines") are: Major W. E. Almy, Major M. C. Butler, Jr. and Captain J. S. Hart (officers of U. S. A. 1898), four days investigation of north part, page 145; Fitzhugh Lee (Major General commanding U. S. A. 1899) four days investigation north of Santa Fe, page 159; Fred S. Foltz (Captain 2nd Infantry, 1899), three weeks north of Santa Fe, page 156; H. J. Slocum, U. S. Geological Survey, 1901 (Captain Seventh Cavalry Distributing Officer, 1900) one week north of Santa Fe investigating, page 135; and Frank

McCoy (Aide-de-camp 1901) page 139, one day on South Shore.

The impressions of Willard Hayes, U. S. Geological Survey 1901, page 99, do not state the duration of his visit on the Isle of Pines nor is a date given of his writing. In his statements follow a long reprint from the "Diccionario Enciclopedico Hispano Americano" Vol. 15, Barcelona 1894, quoting Dirrotero de las Antillas, page 79. (This report was written by a Spanish officer and evidently it was intended that the wishes of his colleagues living in Nueva Gerona should be respected. Graft within graft was the idea, so that the prisoners of Spain would be continually shipped to the Isle of Pines). To the author it would appear that such an article would be set up in Spanish type because the statements therein contained are not, as a whole, true of the island, and the author believes that most encyclopedias of all countries have copied from this Spanish compilation.

The write-up of Willard Hayes (which is in part reproduced in this book) and the report on the island by the minority Committee of Congress as appears on page 76, following: "(*** That the Isle of Pines shall be omitted from the proposed constitutional boundaries of Cuba, the title thereto being left to further adjustment by treaty."—Act of Congress, U. S. approved March 2, 1901) are more just and truthful about the actual conditions of the northern part but even in Mr. Hayes' remarks there is shown a lack of knowledge regarding existing conditions in the southern portion and it is evidently a question if that gentleman ever visited there. If he did his trip was probably of short duration. It is obvious that the influence in Cuba derogatory to the Isle of Pines (a custom among the people) had worked on his judgment.

Following the habit of all U. S. Government officials (unless otherwise ordered) they refer to reports of certain sections and take them for granted, without further investigation, which was doubtless the case concerning the southern part of the Island.

Certain maps of the Isle of Pines now published display swampy lands where they are high—even to an elevation of fifty feet—for instance the country around Caleta Grande is shown as savannahs thereon and the fact is that directly from the coast line the land approaches a plateau. Within two hundred feet of the landing at Caleta Grande there is a bluff of fifty feet, which

is shown on maps and charts as swamp land.

When the massive timber at Olymphia along the coast of the State of Washington was cut it was stated that the stumps were too large to grub out and that the land would not grow crops, but the donkey engine and the K hand Stump Puller removed them and now some of the richest agricultural land in the state is where those big trees once grew. It has been proven that where such trees—especially hardwoods—grow, the land is rich.

Probably the wildest and least explored part of the entire Antilles is the southern part of the Isle of Pines and it is evident (provided those massive trees were cut and the stumps grubbed out) there must be millions of dollars to be made from the hard woods of that vast virgin area, and when the deep sea port of that country is realized it should be an exceedingly profitable place in which to live and carry on business enterprises.

The publications other than those referred to on preceeding pages heretofore published, written solely upon the Isle of Pines, have either been issued by land companies (biased in their views) or by authors who have not possessed the knowledge of its commerce and industries—the books have been composed in an exaggerated language, designed to please persons interested there—and even those books have been compiled after only a few weeks of exploration and sluggish seeing by authors inexperienced in commercial activies.

It was Piña who first declared that the ore in the northern portion of the island would upon mining, develop minerals in paying quantities.

CHAPTER I

THE NATIVES

THE ORGANIZATION of what was known as the second voyage of Columbus to the New World was the work of the agents of Spain conducted directly under the supervision of the Crown. In contrast to the first voyage of that illustrious man (which was one of exploration) this latter expedition was begun for conquest and colonization. Therefore, an entirely different class than those who composed the first voyage embarked. For such an undertaking men then engaged in lucrative pursuits at home were not attracted; the rank and file were, therefore, appealed to, and in many instances those men refused to undergo the hardships and warfare necessarily encountered in an undeveloped and savage land.

In the course of fitting out for the expedition (after the "Soldiers of Fortune" and the unemployed had been assembled) it was found that there were not a sufficient number to make up a good sized colony. Therefore, it was then decided by the Crown to liberate from the prisons of Spain those felons who bore the lesser criminal records, for this colonization, which was done. The prisoners were placed under the care of Columbus, Cortes, De Leon and others.

It may be stated that when Diego Columbus was Governor of Santo Domingo DeLeon was then Governor of Porto Rico. (DeLeon was later succeeded by Columbus). Captain Diego Velazquez was named by Columbus to colonize Cuba. He, therefore, embarked from Santo Domingo in 1511 with three hundred men (among his officers was Hernandes Cortés—later conqueror of Mexico) and landed near Maisi the same year. This band of colonists at once encountered the resistance of the natives (the first uprising of the Indians against the White Man in Cuban history) which resulted in later years with the entire elimination of the Red Man from the West Indies

Prior to the coming of Velazquez, the Spanish explorers and conquerors had incensed the Indians against their race, due largely through their ignorance of the habits and customs of those aborigines, of whom they had but little knowledge, and also because of their own ina-

bility to cultivate the lands which the Red Men were endeavoring to keep planted in crops.

The Indians then inhabited the islands which are now known as the Bahamas, Cuba and the Isle of Pines. They were descendants of the Creek race on the mainland. Unlike some of their ancestors, they were a peaceful tribe and rather prone to embarking with their canoes upon the sea between the islands in quest of fish and for the game upon the Keys.

These Red Men prior to 1600 were known as the Siboney Tribe; they were large of statue and were evidently very muscular. The skeletons which were unearthed in Cuba and on the Isle of Pines prior to the Eighteenth Century (the few from the Isle of Pines have been taken to the Natural History Museum of New York) bear resemblance to those skeletons extracted from the oyster mounds of Florida in 1850, only the skulls show a higher type of intelligence than those of Florida.

During the year 1511, when Velazquez and Narvaez penetrated the interior from the Coast, the Siboneys, under Cacique (chief) Hatuey, defended their lands in arms, the bow and arrow and the tomahawk were but crude instruments of warfare against the then more modern arms of the Spaniards. Nearly all of the tribe inhabiting Siguanea (Isle of Pines) embarked from the island to engage with their race in the expulsion of the Spanish invaders. It was during those Indian wars that Father Bartolome de Las Casas, a Spanish priest (known as the protector of the Indians) went to Spain and beseeched the Crown, in the name of humanity, to put a stop to the wholesale murders of the Siboneys, but his appeals were met by the deaf ears and expressionless countenances of those monarchs. It was evident that Spain in her greed for Western aggrandizement had determined to annihilate any race, white, red or black, that would dare stand in the way towards her permanent settlement in the New World.

The Siboneys were subsequently exterminated; they were cheated by pretext upon pretext, and finally their greater number refused to be placed in Spanish bondage; but before the last of this race those scattered bands which had evaded capture, including Cacique Hatuey, were hunted like wild animals until finally taken prisoners.

During the Indian wars from 1511 to 1518 Bartolome de Las Casas had never ceased pleading for the preserva-

tion of the Siboneys and only gave up when the backbone of the race had been broken—his memory, however, still lives on and will continue to survive through all the ages of man. The history of the New World, especially the West Indies, is replete in the praises of this man, who dared in the name of Christianity to defy his own countrymen in what he termed the ruthless murdering of an honorable, peaceful and ancient people.

The call of Chief Hatuey addressed to those of his tribe, was answered and took even the last Indian not only from the big island, but likewise from Siguanea (Isle of Pines) the latter island having only a few hundred lives to offer their Chief, which they gave up in defense of their lands.

So passed out a brave and honorable tribe of humans—a people who would not be slaves to any foreign race—murdered by the White Man in order to pave the way for the advancement of more modern civilization and the development of the Western Hemisphere. They were sacrificed and passed out of existence, these native of the West Indies, to make way for the Black race, whose lower mentality subjected them to serfdom and bondage. It was this race who were to follow their masters, the White Men of Europe, whose habitations, especially the Spaniard's, will forever stand the ravages of time immortal.

From the peaks of the Mahai, now the Casas Range, Siguanea (now the Isle of Pines) had been viewed by these chieftains; the bays and rivers were entered, the fishing grounds off the banks of the western coast were visited and the primeval forests of the South Shore had been penetrated; trails were blazed into the interior. The springs of "crystal" waters had been located and were considered by those aborigines as the "purest of the pure", containing great healing qualities for the sick and afflicted. In fact what is now the Isla de Pinos (Isle of Pines) was no doubt settled by the Siboney Indians prior to the year 1500—those people having crossed in their canoes from Key to Key (Island to Island), from the shores of the larger island (now Cuba), and were the first of the humans to inhabit the island then called by them Siguanea or Camaraco, later called by the Cubans Quitran, also Renia Amalia.

The shallow waters surrounding the Isle of Pines (excepting the South Shore) extending out over the banks, which cover a distance in most places of from two

to five miles, and on the northeast the entire distance to Batabano, are amid many keys, viz., Los Ingleses, Batabano, Isle de Mangles, Cayo Largo and Cayo de Juan Lu; on the west the keys of Los Indios and San Filipe form the balance of the smaller protective islands to the larger island, thus making the approach to the Isle of Pines through a labyrinth of water courses.

The mountain ranges are Sierra de las Cañada (Spy Glass) 1600 feet; Sierra de Caballos, 981 feet and Sierra de las Casas, 945 feet.

The principal river are Jucaro, Santa Fe, Casas, Nuevas, Los Indios and San Padro.

It was no doubt the inability of deep draft vessels to reach the shores of this island (the southern part then being described as a separate island) that prompted Spain to harbor some of her felons and to also encourage slave trade. The inaccessibility of the island no doubt also induced pirates to use it. However, piracy, a safe refuge for vessels and a secure location for prisoners seemed the fate to which this island was subjected for more than two centuries.

With the settlement of the Spanish slave traders, the ranchio, tobacco and sugar cane planters, came into existence the towns of Santa Fe and Nueva Gerona—the former was named when an Indian village, by Takamena, and the latter before settlement by Columbus, to commemorate his birthplace; and the mountain range Sierra de las Casas was probably named by Takamena the second, of Camaraco, Siguanea, in memory of Bartolome de Las Casas.

There were noted men of Spanish birth who visited the Isle of Pines prior to Lord Albermarle's occupancy of Havana, some of whom declared the island to be one of the most beautiful in the West Indies, and nearly all visitors pronounced the waters of the Isle the purest they had ever tasted. Such statements were corroborated by Englishmen who went there during British rule over Cuba, therefore, the fame of this little Isle set in the Caribbean Sea, containing three mountain ranges and surrounded by innumerable keys, became world known as a resort for the cure of many ailments, possessing an atmosphere pungent with the odors of the pines and essenced with the fragrance of wild flowers never before equalled anywhere. A veritable paradise, with pine needles and cone floors, stately trees—some of huge size—

and the tallest ever seen; and thousands of beautifully colored and most fragrant flowers. Wild fruits of the finest flavors grow in great abundance; a place not to be overlooked by the tourist in quest of sight seeing among the Lesser Antilles. A place once seen, never to be forgotten because there probably is no other island in the world quite like this little gem of the Southern Sea.

In view of all these facts the Isle of Pines continued to be a refuge for the lowly and oppressed up to 1898.

The Isle of Pines was visited by Narvaez in 1513. The first Spanish settler and planter (other than the Spanish officers representing the Crown and in charge of the island) was Francisco Janer Durate, who resided there in 1763.

The Isle of Pines was discovered by Columbus upon his return from Cuba to Spain and before his second landing at Santo Domingo 1492, and was recorded by him as lying between "21 degrees 27-25 and 21-38-17 northern latitude and 76-11-11 and 76-52-52 of longitude west of the meridian of Cadiz". The explorer made the landing on the island to provide the vessels with wood and water, and the water so procured was made mention of by Columbus as the purest and softest he had ever seen. He christened the Isle "Evangelista" although the Indians he met there at that time called it Siguenea and Camaraco. The landing was no doubt made in the vicinity of what is now Columpo Beach. The natives who then welcomed him to those shores had before the laspe of another century all been exterminated at the hands of the monarchs who were destined to occupy this island for three centuries.

There are but scant records in Havana or in the archives of Spain relative to the life of Cacique Takamena, other than that he was of the Siboney tribe of Indians, formerly having lived on the big island "Cuba", but the records are complete inasmuch as the Siguenea or Camaraco Indians went from there to that "Big Island" at the call of Cacique Hatuey and fought with the main tribe against the Spanish invasion.

The legend of Himairo, a youth, the son of Takamena, has much of pathos and romance. This prince is described by a few ancient writers as a musician, a master of the hollow reed instrument; others picture him as a poet and others as a romantic lover whose music and songs

bewitched Indian maidens. He may have accompanied the Indians to the Big Island in the first wars with the Spanish and returned to Siguenea a deserter, where he was later put to death by the braves of the tribe for being a coward.

The story of the boiling spring which came into being where Prince Himairo was supposed to have fallen at the hands of his father or the braves and the extermination of the Siboney Tribe can no doubt be traced to the true history of the Spanish conquerors who exterminated all of the Siboneys.

CHAPTER II

THE SPANISH OCCUPANCY

IN 1582 Captain Richard Hawkins (the English naval hero) and his first officer, Francis Drake (a young sea rover), entered what is now the Jucaro River and proceeded to Santa Fe; they also explored the Casas River, anchoring their vessels off Columpo Beach. It is evident there were a few Spaniards, possibly of pirate origin, who were inhabiting a small section of the island in the vicinity of what is now Santa Fe, Jucaro, Columbia and Nueva Gerona, including the beaches at Vivijagua and Columpo, and it is also evident that during the period from 1582 up to 1840 pirates visited the sections of Punta del Este, Vivijagua and Columpo and possibly might have deposited treasures taken from vessels overhauled in the waters adjacent to the Keys of Los Indios in the mountains near the playas.

The exploits of Hawkins and Drake as recorded in a book published in London in 1600 make mention of these sea rovers "putting in" at Evangelista, Camaraco and Cienega de las Siguanea. Lieutenant Governor Madyford of Jamaica then in control of Admiral Henry Morgan, whom he sent to Cuba on a plundering expedition, also made mention of that buccaneer as having landed at Siguenea (now the Isle of Pines), for water and fuel, and it is possible that Morgan buried or concealed in caves-some of the stores taken from the Spanish merchant ships, and from the records it is evident that those stores were again collected and taken to Madyford at Jamaica.

Latrobe and John Paul Jones no doubt anchored off Columpo Beach and possibly concealed treasures on the island to be later removed to the European markets for barter and trade; and possibly female prisoners taken from vessels by Gasparilla, were temporarily lodged there under guard of the pirates, until transported to Jean Lafitte, at Barrataria Bay, near the mouth of the Mississippi. However, the pirate records are not as complete as regards their doings relative to the seizure of Spanish treasure vessels as those chronicled in connection with the plundering of the homes of the colonists on the island. In most cases they are legendary and their lore will no doubt remain a mystery through the ages of man, but it is evident that the island sheltered many bands of pirates,

smugglers, desperadoes and renegades, from the years 1582 up to 1840, and possibly until 1860.

There is a record that Latrobe, the French pirate (supposed to be a partner of Jean Lafitte) captured in 1809 two Spanish treasure vessels and removed gold, jewelry and ornaments amounting in value to about $6,000,000 and that he had sailed with them to Siguenea, where they were hidden for a time and then removed and taken to Kingston, Jamaica. In the last voyage he was pursued by an American clipper vessel, overhauled and turned over to the authorities of Kingston, where he was hanged.

It is stated that the night before his execution he concealed a letter in the hands of a jail attendant, addressed to Lafitte. This letter, it is presumed, contained information and a map regarding the hiding place of large booty, including several millions in gold, which was buried at Siguenea. It was stated that the map and the description gave the location as "ninety feet from the head of a boiling thermal spring."

It is known that several groups of treasure hunters have excavated in various parts of the island (both north and south) and that such excavations have been going on for many years. The results of their efforts are, of course, shrouded in mystery, because if treasures had been found by them such a fact would not have been made known owing to the possibility of government seizure.

If Robert Louis Stevenson had described "Treasure Island" as covering a larger area than "twelve miles across" the Isle of Pines might tally with his description of that Island. However, he may have laid that most interesting story on the "Big Whale" south of Cienega de Lanier, now known as the South Shore of the island. The author believes that the South Shore is the "Treasure Island" of Stevenson's fame.

Evangelista, Camaraco, Siguenea and Reina Amalia, Isla de Pinos, was in its entirety ceded by the Crown of Spain to one Hernando de Pedroso, a Spaniard, in the year 1630 (the same year that Governor Endicott landed at Salem, Massachusetts Bay). In 1716, eighty years after the death of Pedroso, his descendants, David Nicholas and Francisco Durate, took possession of the Isle, Nicholas taking the northern part. These haciendas were later known as San Juan and (Correll) Santa Fe. Durate took the southern part which was later known as Punta Este (South Shore). Edward Gelabert was sent by Nich-

olas with ten head of cattle and fourteen mares, to Punta Este. In 1726 this herd had increased to such a degree that a good sized ranch was established. He also despatched one Aballa to create five more farms.

In 1727 David Nicholas became sole owner of the entire island (both northern and southern parts). He later sold to Edward Gelabert a portion of the Punta Este, so the island contained two haciendas, the San Juan and the Santa Fe.

During 1740 Nicholas divided his estate among five of his sons and two sons-in-law, (including Francisco Janer Durate) who were settled on the island.

Nicholas died in 1760, leaving the island to be administered by his heirs. In 1763 Francisco Janer Durate was appointed by the Crown Captain a Guarte of the island, the first Government representative and the beginning of Spanish sovereignty in the Isle of Pines.

In 1764 the heirs petitioned the Crown for permission to colonize the island, which was refused on account of the pirate plunderings then going on. De Domingo (one of the heirs) succeeded Durate as Captain General, and during his term of office a few families were colonized and settled, but their homes were plundered by the pirates, which news spread abroad, thus retarding the development and progress of the island for sometime. In 1765 Domingo resigned his royal commission in favor of Andres Costa, who took command in 1766.

During the closing months of 1766 there were about seventy four people (not including the pirates) on the island. Of this number nineteen were señoras; twelve señoritas; twenty married señors with families; ten unmarried señors and ten criaturas.

The records on file in Havana dealing with the pirate invasion of Reina Amalia (Isle of Pines) 1766, state clearly how those buccaneers of the Caribbean during that year invaded nearly every house on the island, plundered them of valuables, including gold and silver, and insulted the señoras and señoritas. The pirates who took part in that invasion numbered over sixty men. The records further state that there were none of the señoras or the señoritas taken prisoners, as the pirates had a large number of English and French women captives at their lair and aboard their ships. One señor, during one of these invasions, who was attempting to protect his esposa and hija was stripped and severely beaten in their pre-

sence. The pirates were French and English and the records say they were mostly el joven, which would indicate they were young men.

During 1767 the island contained seventy-six inhabitants and the plantations of Santa Fe and Nueva Gerona were becoming known, cattle and hog raising were carried on to a considerable extent, but this husbandry was conducted with as much, if not more fear, than the daily existence of the New England colonists. Instead of the Indian marauder the Isle of Pines colonists had to contend with the attacks of the pirates, the buccaneers and the renegades.

The population of the island in 1780 numbered about two hundred, made up of planters, ranchmen, pirates and smugglers. The colonists desirous of raising cattle and hogs and planting the lands were in constant dread of assassination. The renegades defied law and order—in fact such ethics were not known on the Isle of Pines at that time.

In 1871 Captain General A. Costa called for volunteers to rid the island of picaroons and was successful in shipping one hundred and twenty-five of them to Havana for safe keeping.

It was the year 1800 when Jean Terry y Lucy arrived from Havana to look over the island with a view to colonization and the establishment of the Christain faith. In 1809 Captain General A. Costa (owner of Santa Fe) granted twelve lots for the erection of houses, upon which were planted about forty Spanish laurel and mango trees. This section was then known as Bisque de Mangos, and in 1812 the first church was built at Santa Fe "in spite of the struggle". Father Agnacio officiated as priest—the parish was known as Quizican.

Santa Fe was a village in 1826 (the only one then in existence on the island) and the Springs of Santa Rita had become known. During 1827 Clemente Delgado y Espana arrived on the island, accompanied by an adjutant, a corporal, six soldiers and a doctor, and proceeded to Santa Fe. He was commissioned to establish a colony to be known as Reina Amalia. Delgado purchased of Andres Costa, owner of the hacienda "Cierra de Casas" one hundred and twelve cavaliers of ground on the western bank of the Rio Casas, which is known today as Nueva Gerona. He established a trading base and brought with him twelve soldiers, one artillerist, a corporal, fourteen

chain gang prisoners, one small cannon, some ammunition and armament, instruments and tools to fell trees, and with this force and these tools he began in 1827 to lay out the village of Nueva Gerona. The first building were four large halls of adobe and palm leaves, designed for the commander and officers of the garrison. The second building was for the troops; the third a prison for the chain gang and the fourth structure was a Government general store. The various buildings were christened with names taken from the Vatican and Quirinal—a most ambitions undertaking in keeping with the pride of Rome. (Note—It may be said that some of the buildings of the present Nueva Gerona remind one of the scenes of Pompeii and Roman architecture). It was during this year that the Spanish administration of Havana, Cuba, established a garrison, the present Quartel, and dispatched a commander-in chief, founding Nueva Gerona as the capital of the island and as a penal colony of Spain. This was the third great event of the island—the first having taken place when Pedroso was granted the island by the Crown and the second event occurred when Andres Costa was commissioned by Spain as the first Captain General of the island.

The village of Nueva Gerona had during the year 1728 three hundred population. The sailing craft from Cuba anchored then about three hundred veras from the village, from which small boats transferred the passengers and cargo. Santa Fe received her supplies from those vessels at Nueva Gerona. Thus established, the capital became the port of entrance for the island.

In 1729 there was erected in the village (by the populace) a general store, a bakery and an apothecary shop; also a church.

The first Spanish colonization had taken place, also the first negro settlement was established. A landing place had been made, but the presence of Spanish craft in those waters attracted the Columbian privateers and during the second year of the establishment of Nueva Gerona the commander of the garrison was taken prisoner by the pirates. The government buildings and the village were sacked by those buccaneers.

The Columbia pirates and privateers who infested the waters surrouding the Isle of Pines continued to retard industrial development of the island, capturing several of the vessels which carried on the trade between the island

and Cuba.

The marble resources of the Caballos mountains in 1836 became somewhat conspicuous through the efforts of a Parisian geologist who interested Captain General O'Donnell of Cuba, and steps were taken by this official to develop them. Quarries were established which bade fair at that time to produce a large industry for the Isle of Pines; but industrial and political differences arose between Cuba and Spain. The political power of Spanish merchants through the Madrid government, made it impossible for Captain General O'Donnell to continue the work; therefore, the quarries were abandoned and so remained for many years thereafter.

During 1830 Spain was casting about for a location to establish a place to take care of an overgrowing number of prisoners who had filled up the prisons of Spain, and finally decided (owing to the shallow draft of the waters around the Isle of Pines) that prisoners would not be as liable to escape from that island as from some others in their possession. A mandate was, therefore, decreed, effective through the administration of the Governor General of Cuba and the Governor General of the Isle of Pines (the latter being under the jurisdiction of the former) to transport a number of such servitudes to that and put under the protection of the Governor General and a soldiery, in buildings erected for the purpose in Nueva Gerona. Many of these prisoners were formed into chain gangs and were worked on the roads and used in the erection of public buildings in accordance with the provisions of Spanish occupancy.

The fourth great event on the island occurred on September 15, 1850, when De Manuel Caldo brought the steamer "CABANO" up the Rio Casas to Nueva Gerona and continued to make one weekly trip between the island and Cuba. The population of the Isle of Pines amounted then to about one thousand people. This event was considered by the husbandry as the beginning of a new era for the island. The Caldo turpentine business was established, manufacturing varnishes, etc., and the opening of the thermal baths for public use and for the cure of the sick and afflicted, all of which gave an impetus to the island. A railroad had already been established from Havana to Batabano, thus affording quick transportation across the island of Cuba.

In 1851 Don Juan Costa, a Spanish army officer, set-

tled in Santa Elena on an inherited tract of 55,000 acres, which had been converted into a slave plantation. He purchased wild negroes from Africa, fatted and trained them for the plantations of the Southern States, selling them in the slave markets of New Orleans. This Isle of Pines slave plantation, (which was continually stocked with from five hundred to one thousand negroes) became famous during its existence.

The progress of the island in the development of its resources and the publicity of it throughout various countries as a health and recreation resort, advertising the curative powers of the waters contained in the various springs and the purity of the atmospheric conditions, inspired those living there with the idea of the removal of the penal colony from the island, which was later accomplished through the efforts of Manuel Caldo and Formento Pinero—an event long to be remembered.

In 1857 the island had twenty four miles of Government roads built, with two solid bridges between Nueva Gerona and Santa Fe—the first bridge having been built in 1856—and roads leading to the landing places on the rivers. The bridge leading to these landing places was built by public donation. A church had been erected on the banks of the Casas River; general store were opened and society established. It was during this year the inhabitants contributed towards the construction of a new steamer to take the place of the "'CABANO". A beautiful town had been built from a humble hamlet; elegant homes had been erected and a real capital existed.

During 1859 a colony of approximately one hundred Florida negroes was settled within about three miles of Nueva Gerona. They undertook the development of the lands offered them by the Government for colonization purposes, which they have improved and maintained as a successful colony. However, the settlement of English speaking people upon lands owned by the Spanish Crown proved the same in the Isle of Pines as in Florida, which is this, that it seems almost impossible for Spanish legislators to enact laws consistent with the living requirements of the Anglo-Saxon race, their thoughts being so at variance to those of the English speaking people and their habits and customs so different, at least without the aid and power of the Anglo-Saxon having a voice in the making thereof, which latter condition did not exist prior to 1898.

In repetition of the efforts of the Spanish to colonize Florida and their utter failure to successfully do so upon the mainland, the spirit of the Cuban now coming in contact with Americans had already inspired a feeling of confidence in their ability to extricate themselves from the domination and the administration of Spanish regime, so this occupancy of Spanish rule in the Isle of Pines had in 1860 been pronounced a failure, especially by those experienced in colonization work; and relief in the oppression as administered by Spain was constantly hoped for, which the following Chapter relates, but the "events" leading up to that critical hour of life or death, for freedom's sake, cover pages of interesting history—a record in which the United States played no small role (including the liberation of Cuban patriots from the prisons on the Isle of Pines) and to that power every patriotic Cuban and every man, woman and child now living under the protection of Cuban laws should be grateful for the part the United States of America assumed in bringing about the freedom of Cuba from Spanish rule, for without the aid of the army and navy of the U. S. A. the majority of the Cuban patriots no doubt would by now have perished at the point of the Spanish bayonet.

The Spanish American war of 1898 was the herald of a change of tyrannical government as formerly administered by Crown heads; that War was one of the great events in the history of the world, which subsequent records have chronicled. It was the beginning of the World War that followed sixteen years later and which engaged the United States, but instead of fighting for the freedom of Cuba, the American government was waged to save the world from despotism.

CHAPTER III

THE PATRIOTS AND SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

DISCONTENT on the part of the Cubans relative to Spanish domination in Cuba and the Isle of Pines had been rife for over half a centurty. The descendants of the Spanish born on Cuban soil were as a whole at variance with their parents when it came to the discussion of political issues. The new generation rebelled against the tyranny of Spain as practiced by the Spaniards in Cuba. The negroes emigrating to Cuba from Jamaica, Hayti and elsewhere had in many cases intermarried with the Cuban born Spanish. The close proximity of the United States and the continual intercourse of the Cubans with the Americans inspired a feeling among them for political freedom. The desire to rid themselves from the yoke which Spain had placed around their necks grew with amazing rapidity, especially among those of Spanish origin who had intermarried with the French, the Americans and with the negro.

Those Spanish families of Cuba who had kept their blood in tact and not intermarried into other races, living in Cuba for only a limited time, were ever loyal to the Crown. Spain ruled that no Cuban born could hold military or ecclesiastical offices. Many Spanish mothers would leave Cuba for Spain before their children were born and then return to Cuba. However, such cases were not the rule. The old saying was "A Spaniard can do anything in Cuba except raise a Spanish child". Spanish children of the first generation were counted Cubans and not Spaniards. Cuban born sons of Spanish parents were disqualified from holding any office. The Roman Catholic church of State, the established church of Cuba, and no others but Roman Catholics could be inhabitants of the island. The Protestant bible was not allowed in Cuba, even for burial services, and immigration of Protestants was restricted.

From 1552 and up to the British occupancy 1762, Havana was the capital port of Cuba. Spain prohibited vessels from trading with any ports other than Seville and Cadiz, but after the British occupancy over 400,000 negro slaves were imported into Cuba and the commerce with England and other ports of the world was opened for international trading. The clipper ships of the United

States took advantage of this free port and entered into an enormous commerce with England and Cuba, likewise other countries were benefited through that international trade. Havana later became the third largest port in the world.

During 1834 Governor General Tacon jailed persons who interfered with the negro slave trade. Piracy by sea and robberies on land were then a daily menace to shipping, and the highwaymen were so numerous that the streets of the City and the country roads were not safe for the transportation of persons or for the dispatch of goods.

In 1868 the Insulars (Cubans) rebelled against the Peninsulars (the Spaniards) and a civil war ensued which lasted for ten years. The Peninsulars or Spanish volunteers, were organized in 1871 and numbered 80,000 men. It was this body of men who on the 27 th of November, 1871, lined up eight medical students (all under sixteen years of age) and shot them, as a warning to the Insulars and the rebels and in defiance of their free speech and acts which they had already promulgated. "Murdering the students" was thereafter used as a slogan by the Cubans and served as an inspiration during the ensuing years of rebellion that followed.

At the close of the Ten Year War, 1878, the love of freedom was deeply set in the minds of the Cubans. There was but one thought and that was liberty for Cuba and for the Cubans only. To return to Spanish rule meant a life of serfdom, an existence under miserable living conditions and the indomitable rule of Church and State, which was no longer bearable, especially since a few years of independence from it all had been enjoyed. The life of each Cuban was held lightly when it came to being placed as a sacrifice for the great cause. Death was more welcome than existence under the former laws of Spanish administration. The cause meant but a few years of patient waiting—the United States would soon take part with the Cuban patriots. However those "few years" emerged into twenty years. But the camp fires were never during that time put out; the embers were alway smouldering. "Keep the fires burning" and "Cuba Libre" were the pass words along the line of the entire frontier.

The period from 1860 to 1894 on the Isle of Pines was of varying interest. There was a fluctuating population of from five hundred to seven hundred people, mostly

composed of Spaniards and Cubans, with a mixture of a few Americans, Englishmen and other scattering nationalities. The penal colony had been removed, but the island did not progress to any material degree. Cattle and hog raising was carried on and some tobacco and fruits were raised.

The Civil war in the United States, 1860 to 1865 and the Ten Year War of Cuban Independence, 1868 to 1878, had but little effect upon the Isle of Pines. However, there were some of the Cubans then inhabiting the Isle who took part in the Ten Year War for Cuban independence, having left the island to join the great forces in Cuba. The Isle of Pines remained during that Ten Year War in a state of fermentation, partly in favor of Spain and the other part in favor of independence, but the movements of those not sharing the Spanish sympathy were continually watched by the Spaniards.

The slave trade ceased in 1870. The twentyfour years intervening between 1870 and 1894 as experienced by the population then inhabiting the island were of little moment and the deeds recorded by those men were not of critical importance in shaping the destiny of the island. Therefore, this period is mostly eliminated to make room for the greater events of the island's history, which have an important bearing upon its future prosperity.

The organization of the filibustering expedition and the establishment of the Cuban Junta in New York and the appeals as made by Agramonte, Estrada Palma (President of the Junta), Jose Marti, Quesada, Guerra, Nuez, Villalon and Zayas during the winter of 1894 and 1895 made 56 New Street famous not only in United States but all over the world. The propaganda printed and circulated got sufficient headway and raised the necessary funds to enable the Junta to move the first expedition from the United States to Cuba, which left Fernandina, Florida, in December 1894, and which was intercepted at the dock, with funds, ammunition and everything on board.

In April General Antonio Maceo spread "Cuba Libre", having landed on the north coast near Baracoa, from whence he proceeded to the Bay of Mariel, near where he was mortally wounded. On April 11th General Maximo Gomez with Jose Marti, landed from Hayti in a little boat after crossing the mountains of Oriente, and established a base in those hills as headquarters to

carry on the operatons in connection with the Junta of New York.

The exploits of the "THREE FRIENDS", that vessel which ran the blockade between Florida and Cuba, 1896, is familiar to nearly every school child. In spite of all the efforts of Spain and her continued demands upon the United States to put a stop to the filibustering expeditions, the "THREE FRIENDS" continually eluded capture, performing great service for the cause of Cuban independence. Upon this vessel, through all of its trials and the imminent dangers of capture and ship wreck, the following Cuban patriots dared their lives in defense of the cause: General J. Rius Rivera, Colonel J. R. Villalon, General Joaquin C. Duany and Captain Francisco Gomez Toro.

Revolutionary conditions in Cuba became so alarming to the Spanish Crown and the inability of Governor General Castellanos (the 136th Governor General of Cuba) to handle the situation in a manner satisfactory to the Madrid Government, that Governor General Weyler was dispatched to Cuba with a large force of infantry, battery and cavalry, with instructions to show no mercy to the Cuban patriots and to put down the Revolution at all costs. The barbarous acts of Weyler and his officers are voluminous; they are chronicled in the pages of history and are familiar to the readers of every nation on earth.

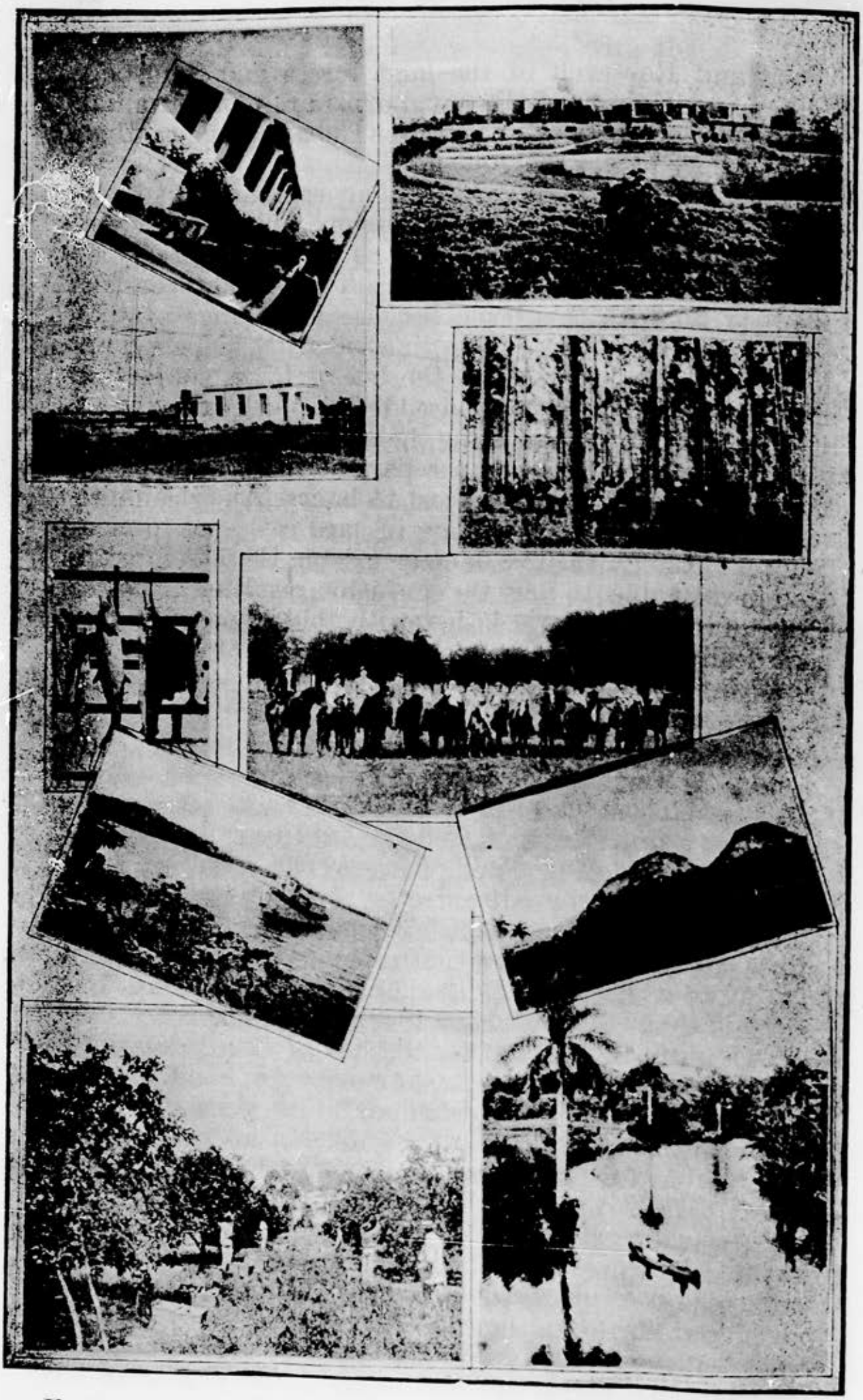
Through the Cuban cigar makers of Tampa and Key West, Florida (who received photographs taken in Cuban by the Cuban patriots, showing the wretched conditions of the Cuban people and the emaciated state of the children of the island) illustrations were secured by the United States newspapers, depicting the then true Cuban living conditions, which had much to do towards shaping public sentiment in the United States and elsewhere in favor of Cuba, a propaganda at that time most valuable.

The blowing up of the battleship "MAINE" in Havana Harbor on February 16th, 1898, and the loss of two hundred and sixty seven of her crew, linked with the outrages of Weyler, caused the people of United States to demand of the President and Congress a declaration of war upon Spain, which was done on April 11th, 1898.

The campaign of Cuban and American troops in Cuba is a matter of history and is familiar to all intelligent persons in every country. The church was separated from the State and public improvements under American officers were begun. Generals Brook and Lee and Colonels

Wood and Roosevelt of the land forces and Samspon, Schley and Hobson of the naval arms are more familiar to the people in connection with the Cuban campaign than possibly any others there engaged.

The Porto Rico and Philippine campaign had but little bearing upon the Cuban outcome only from a victorious standpoint and inasmuch as the Peace Treaty of Paris was concerned, which Peace Treaty, however, has much to do with this book, because the doings of that conference or confusion resulting when the papers were drawn up—the ownership of the Isle of Pines not having been made clear therein—caused technicalities to exist. A blunder as it were in omitting the name of the island, and through that oversight on the part of those drawing up the papers there have been lost to honest American citizens several millions of dollars in hard cash, not to mention untold anguish. The damage arising therefrom is indeed inestimable. In part the confusion resulting from the Peace Treaty of Paris is herewith told, especially that part dealing with the ownership of the Isle of Pines.



Upper right.—Residence of a Grove Owner. Lower left.—Picking Walter's Grape Fruit.

CHAPTER IV

THE ADVENT OF THE AMERICAN INVESTOR

THE TREATY OF PARIS was signed December 10, 1898. Article 2 of the Treaty contained the following:

"Spain cedes to the United States the Island of Porto Rico and other islands now under Spanish Sovereignty in the West Indies, and the Island Guam in the Marianas or Landrones".

This information spread over the United States and there was consequently an interest aroused in the Isle of Pines. There were Cuban patriots who were confined on the island by the Spaniard before the United States declared war on Spain. There were others who were somewhat familiar with the island, those who had taken part with the troops, who fought and were stationed in Cuba, and some of those officers and men had visited there. Upon their return to the United States (after the war was over) they told of the beauties of it, the news of which spread, so when the Treaty of Paris was read, President McKinley and John Hay (the latter then Secretary of State) were asked by some interested people about the ownership of the Isle of Pines, according to the Treaty, and were by both of these gentlemen led to believe that the Isle of Pines belonged to the United States under its terms. Such findings resulted in personal investigations of the island by men of means. Large numbers went there from New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Iowa and elsewhere in the United States. The island being in such close proximity to Florida and with direct regular steamship service between New York and Havana, the interest in the possibility of an American colonization was great provided lands could be purchased.

Since before the war the Isle of Pines had not progressed—only spasmodically maintaining the record it had held since 1865. The lapse of thirty-one years had not attracted Spanish or Cuban colonization. In fact through the Ten Year War of Cuba, since 1871, the island had been as of old maintained by Spain as a penal colony, harboring felons from the Spanish prisons and political offenders from Cuba. The land owners were not interested in the United States Government ownership of the island and were, therefore, willing to sell their lands; at the same time believing that while the American investor was

anxious to buy in large tracts and before his enthusiasm waned was a propitious time to take advantage of a market that seemed to be created for the lands, so property owners were ready to meet the onrush of the eager, quick trading Americans.

During 1898-1899 and 1900 the total population on the Isle of Pines was from 2,000 to 2,200. In 1899 there were three hundred and fifty inhabitants at Santa Fe and one hundred and fifty at Nueva Gerona—the balance were scattered over the outlying districts. Of this number there were less than 10 Americans living on the island.

The reports of United States Government officers, viz., Almy, Butler and Hart, 1898 (jointly); Foltz, 1899; Slocum, 1900 and McCoy, 1901 are herein printed in part. The Slocum report of 1900 mentions two Americans squatting on Government land and other Americans living on the island. The report of Major General Fitzhugh Lee, addressed to Major General Adna R. Chaffee, Chief of Staff, Vedado, which was forwarded to the Secretary of War, is not herein printed, but this report may be read in "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines", page 150, published by U. S. Government 1906.

C. M. Johnson was probably the first American to take up a residence on the island after the Spanish-American war. Mr. Johnson started a saw mill at Los Indios. The first conveyance of title of land to Americans was in 1899—Captain H. Haemel receiving at that time title for acreage at Los Indios. The second title conveyed embraced lands at El Ciego, near Nueva Gerona; the third title was for a tract at Columbia and the fourth for property at Santa Barbara.

George Roberts and L. C. Giltner of Columbia and W. D. Middleton of Santa Fe and S. H. Pearcy and T. J. Keenan were the first American settlers to arrive on the island in 1901. During the close of that year Messrs. J. C. Titchenor and J. A. Hill arrived.

L. C. Giltner brought to the island (1901) the original citrus fruit trees—having secured the French lemon from the Griffing nurseries of Florida, upon which the initial grape fruit and oranges on the Isle of Pines were grafted. The second lot of trees were brought from Jamaica the following year.

Mr. Giltner was also the earliest American civil engineer to survey the island. His map on the Isle of Pines published in 1904, entails the work of his first three years

on the island. This map is the basis of all land marks on the Isle of Pines. It has been used by Government officers and private citizens of the United States and Cuba and will go down to posterity as one of the most valuable accomplishments of man's work for the Isle of Pines.

Colonization schemes were planned and a few lucky ones bought from the then small number of land owners of the Isle, large tracts. Among the purchases of those tracts then made were 106,757 acres; 22,000 acres; another of 27,000 and another of 14,000. The prices paid for the properties were upwards of $2.00 an acre in large tracts. However, there was land valued at nearly three quarters of a million dollars sold by the owners on the Isle of Pines to Americans, in such acreages, within a comparatively short space of time, and ample sums of money were raised for the purpose of surveys, clearing and improvements. Roads were built; hotels, stores and houses were constructed. $75,000 was expended by one company in improvements within two years after purchase. Voluminous literature was printed and distributed throughout the United States, Canada and England, calling attention to Uncle Sam's new possession in the West Indies, "where summers and winters were alike and where people of moderate mean, even poor people, could buy tracts of from five acres up, and make a comfortable living from such a possession."

This colonization of the Isle of Pines, West Indies, U. S. A., spread like wild fire. There was probably never a part of the United States opened up for settlement which attracted more attention than did this Isle of Pines possession. The literature was appealing and as is always the case after a war, there existed an unrest among the people. This "unrest" was prevalent in the States and a desire for immigration on the part of many was mighty strong.

The distribution of the literature as prepared by the land companies and the descriptions of the Isle of Pines as told by the agents of these corporations attracted many well to do people, who came in search of medium sized tracts of land for the purpose of cutting up and selling to persons of moderate means. The investors were highly entertained by the land companies and among such entertainments fishing excursions were arranged for Cape Frances and the South Shore.

There are probably no better fishing grounds, even

today, than the southern waters off the banks of Cape Frances—the Florida Keys not excepted. Large catches were made of king fish, amberjack, Spanish mackerel, barracouta, deep sea broncos and turtles, the turtles weighing as much as one hundred and fifty pounds each. Hunting parties were organized where wild turkey, quail, guinea fowl, pigeons and various varities of wild duck were found very plentifully.

"A Sportsman's Paradise" was a common phrase used for the Isle of Pines. Riding in the saddle, mountain climbing and boating on the rivers were then much indulged in by those visiting the island. In fact the better class of people found in the wonderful varied scenery and the many springs of the purest of waters much to substantiate the advertising of the island as a Sportsman's Paradise".

Had the first investors given publicity to the island along these lines, rather than induced people of less moderate means—and even poor people—to have settled there, with the understanding that they could make a good living on five or ten acres of land, the results would probably be different than are found existing there at the present time, because there were many people who arrived upon the island simply possessing their land and without means of improving it or a sufficient amount of money laid by for sustenance until returns were received from the planting of the crops. However, the boom for the Isle of Pines had started and it looked like there would be a population of from 50,000 to 100,000 Americans settle there within a very few years.

CHAPTER V

THE FIRST AMERICAN COLONIZATION

IN THE EARLY PART OF 1901, nearly two years after the advent of the American investor in the Isle of Pines, considerable improvements had taken place. Lands had been surveyed and cleared, roads had been made, many buildings had been erected, hundreds of small tracts consisting of five and ten acre plats had been sold, a regular steamship line between the island and Batabano was in operation, affording tri-weekly sailings, and large numbers of persons were arriving from all parts to look over and occupy lands they had purchased before having seen them—and in most instances such investors were satisfied. It was too soon then for the poorer people who had made their purchases to have suffered much from deprivation for the lack of means of support. There was an air of optimism generally prevailing over the island because of the American ownership of it, yet there was much inconvenience sustained by the purchasers in securnig deeds for their lands because of the inaccessibility of the Recorder of Deeds, located in the Judicial District of Bejucal, Cuba. The United States government had up to this time not taken possession of the Isle of Pines and the Cuban Government was then loath to install their legal representatives there to administer for the convenience of those living on the island.

During the term of the United States intervention the U. S. Cuban Commission dispatched on November 9 th, 1898, Major Almy, Major Butler and Captain Hart to examine the island and report upon its condition. This report states, in part, that the Spanish soldiers had not yet been transferred to Spain. A Spanish alcalde and a Spanish commander were found by those officers at Nueva Gerona. This appears to be the earliest military occupation of the Isle of Pines by the United States, and it was decisively a sovereign act of domination. These United States officers were followed in February, 1899, by an inspection of Major General Fitzhugh Lee, in obedience to orders. His report (in part) states that he found a company of sixty insurgents under a Captain there. "No one seemed to know for what purpose as the people are quiet and peaceful. I do not see any necessity for a military garrison at this point, but in

compliance with instructions, will send a company over there".

In 1901 Col. Tasker H. Bliss inaugurated an efficient customs regulation for the island and in 1902 General Wood had completed a calsada (turnpike) of seventeen miles in length, with cement conduits and protectors for water drainage, connecting the towns of Santa Fe, Nueva Gerona, Jucaro and Columbia wharves. Profesor Alexander E. Frye and Lieut. Hanna established a school system where English was taught. At this time there were over five hundred American owners of real estate on the island. A telephone system was in operation between Nueva Gerona and Santa Fe, owned by a Spanish Company and many other improvements had been made.

It is the opinion of the author that the letter written by Major General Fitzhugh Lee to Major General Chaffee then in charge, addressed to Vedado, dated February 9, 1899 (which was made public) had more to do towards discouraging the United States Government in its desire for the possession of the Isle of Pines than any other document which had been submitted to the Government up to that time, and no doubt influenced the officers of the Army and Navy departments, causing an apathy on their part in making further investigations. The shallow water around the island was probably the real reason for the lack of interest in it. Had General Lee and other officers going there visited the South Shore and investigated the conditions of the deep water at Caleta Grande and the interior trail to Santa Fe, instead of taking the reports of Spanish officers, as appearing on the maps and charts regarding the swamp dividing the northern part of the island from the southern part, which was done, (the same being in use by those Spanish officers to show the Madrid government that prisoners could not escape in deep draft vessels, which was not true) such reports probably would not have been made and there might have been a desire created on the part of the United States for the possession of the island. The following abstracts appear in General Lee's letter:

"The Isle of Pines, as is known, lies almost due South and sixty miles from Batabano, Cuba. The water covering the intervening space is shallow, having an average depth of fifteen feet, but in many places ten and twelve feet, and in one passage necessary to take to reach the Isle of Pines only about five feet. ***

"It would take a month to get a battalion on the Isle of Pines by the present steamer, as there are no other boats in or around the Island of Cuba, except those drawing too much water for the trip, no other boat can be used".

These statements appear on pages 150 and 151 in Senate Document No. 205 entitled "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines" as printed by the United States Government and now in circulation. (Note: The vessel General Lee refers to was the S. S. "PROTECTOR" which was in regular service then between the island and Batabano, and long since scrapped to make room for the modern vessels now in operation between those ports).

It was at this juncture of affairs that a halt was made for the purpose of ascertaining when the United States government was to take over the island and a reaction was beginning to be felt for the lack of such administration.

A summary of the conditions in the Isle of Pines was made, Order No. 45, dated January 27, 1900, and included the appointment under the Province of Havana for a First Assistant Mayor. Order No. 201, May 18 th, the same year, provided that the ayuntamiento of Isla de Pinos, Province of Havana, shall have eight councilmen. Order No. 254, June 27th, made reference to Lieutenant Mayors for the island.

Still more important is the fact that the inhabitants of the Isle of Pines participated in the elections held in Cuba during the American occupation, viz., the Municipal elections of June 16 th, 1900 and those for the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention September 15 th, 1900. In an Order No. 218, by General Wood, dated October 14 th, 1901, approved by the War Department and published by the Division of Insular affairs in November, 1901, occurs the following under the head of "Electorial Divisions. The Province of Havana. It is divided into four circuits. *** The third will be composed of the ayuntamientoes of Guines, la Catalina, Madruga, Melena del Sur, Nueva Paz, San Nicolas, Guara, Bejucal, Batabano, Quivican, Isle of Pines, San Antonio, De las Vegas, San Felipe and La Salud".

March 2nd, 1901, the Platt amendment was adopted, the Sixth Article of which reads as follows:

"That the Isle of Pines shall be omitted from the proposed constitutional boundaries of Cuba, the title thereto being left to future adjustment by treaty.

"Subsequently, and in accordance with the requirements of that amendment, the Cuban constitutional convention adopted the Platt amendment as an appendix, reciting in that connection the sixth article as above given.

"On the 20th day of May, 1902, by the instrument transferring the government of Cuba to the President and Congress elected by the people of the island of Cuba, the following declaration was made:

"It is understood by the United States that the present Government of the Isle of Pines will continue as a de facto government pending the settlement of the title to the said island by treaty, pursuant to the Cuban constitution and the act of Congress of the United States approved March 2, 1902.

"The status of the Isle of Pines under our occupation of Cuba and the nature of the de facto government, which was to continue pending the settlement of the title to the said island, etc., are shown by the following endorsement, made by Gen. Leonard Wood, on the resolution adopted by the Senate February 16, 1903, namely:

(First endorsement) Office of Late Military Government of Cuba. "Respectfully returned to the Bureau of Insular Affairs. At the date of transfer of the island of Cuba to its duly elected officials the Isle of Pines constituted a municipality included within the municipalities of the Province of Habana and located in the judicial district of Bejucal. The government of the island is vested in its municipal officers subject to the general control of the civil governor of the Province of Havana, who is vested, under the constitution of Cuba, with certain authority in the control of municipal affairs. Under the military government of Cuba the Isle of Pines was governed by municipal officials, subject to the general authority of the civil governor, who received his authority from the Governor General. The Isle of Pines, as it had existed under the military government, was transferred as a de facto government to the Cuban Republic, pending the final settlement of the status of the island by treaty between the United States and Cuba. The action taken by the military government was in accordance with telegraphic orders from the honorable Secretary of War.

"The government of the island to-day is in the hands of its municipal officers, duly elected by the people, under the general control of the civil governor of the

Province of Habana and the Republic of Cuba. As I understand it, the government of the Isle of Pines is vested in the Republic of Cuba pending such final action as may be taken by the United States and Cuba looking to the ultimate disposition of the island. No special action was taken to protect the interests of the citizens of the United States who have purchased property and have settled in the Isle of Pines, for the reason that no such action was necessary. All Americans in the island are living under exactly the same conditions as other foreigners, and if they comply with the laws in force it is safe to say that they will not have any difficulty or need special protection. At the time these people purchased property they understood distinctly that the question of ownership of the Isle of Pines was one pending settlement, and in locating there they took the risks incident to the situation".

The following clauses from the Platt Amendment are herewith given:

"I. That the Government of Cuba shall never enter into any treaty or other contract with any foreign power or powers which will impair or tend to impair the independence of Cuba, nor in any manner authorize or permit any foreign power of powers to obtain by colonization or for military or naval purposes or otherwise, lodgment in or control over any portion of said island.

"II. The said Government shall not assume or contract any public debt, to pay the interest upon which, and to make reasonable sinking fund provisions for the ultimate discharge of which the ordinary revenues of the island, after defraying the current expenses of government, shall be inadequate.

"III. That the Government of Cuba consents that the Unites States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations with respect to Cuba imposed by the treaty of Paris on the United States now to be assumed and undertaken by the Government of Cuba.

"IV. That all acts of the United States in Cuba

during the military occupancy thereof are ratified and validated and all lawful rights acquired thereunder shall be maintined and protected.

"V. That the Government of Cuba will execute, and as far as necessary extend, the plans already devised, or other plans to be mutually agreed upon, for the sanitation of the cities of the island, to the end that a recurrence of epedemic and infectious diseases may be prevented, thereby insuring protection to the people and commerce of Cuba, as well as to the commerce of the southern ports of the United States and the people residing therein.

"VI. That the Isle of Pines shall be omitted from the proposed constitutional boundary of Cuba, the title thereto being left to future adjustment by treaty.

"VII. That to enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba, and to protect the people thereof, as well as for its own defense, the Government of Cuba will lease or sell to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations at certain specified points, to be agreed upon with the President of the United States.

"VIII. That by way of further assurance the Government of Cuba will embody the foregoing provisions in a permanent treaty with the United States".

Abstracts from the letters of U. S. A. officers visiting the Isle of Pines at the orders of the Secretary of War and referred to at the beginning of this Chapter.

"Office Disbursing Officer, Quemados, Cuba, April 20, 1900.

The Adjutant-General,

Department of the Province of Habana and Pinar del Rio.

"Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of my recent visit to the Isle of Pines, on duty connected with the municipal deficit, and also verbal instructions from the department commander.

"I first visited Nueva Gerona, the municipal seat for the entire island, there being but one alcalde and other civil officials for the island.

"The general sanitary condition of Nueva Gerona was excellent: streeets clean, and several interiors which I visited in good sanitary condition. I visited the schools, which were clean, neat and orderly, much better than any I have seen on the island of Cuba. The school furniture has not yet arrived, but they were getting along as best

they could with their benches. Salaries paid to April 1. All the children required to go to school.

"Inspected the Spanish barracks. Building in excellent order. Can accommodate a battalion of infantry.

"Water supply for the town comes from a fine spring in the town limits. * * *

"I however took occasion to say to the alcalde that he must be very careful, on account of his isolated position, in administering the laws, to see that justice was shown to everybody of whatsoever nationality.

"I was informed by the alcalde that Captain Gerhardt, U. S. Army, who recently visited the Isle of Pines inspecting jails, had some unofficial conversation with the civil officials as to whether or not the people of the Isle of Pines preferred to belong to the Island of Cuba or the United States, which seems to have aroused in the minds of these people and officials some question as to the exact status of the Isle of Pines. They seemed to be quite suspicious about this matter and did not understand the situation, but expressed a strong preference toward belonging to the island of Cuba if any issue should arise. I told them that, so far as I knew, such a question had not arisen; that the island of Cuba and all other islands which belonged to Spain at the time of the transfer of Spanish sovereignty to the United States, were at present under the control of the United States through its War Department, and this condition would continue until such time as our Government deemed proper to adjust the entire situation; that the Government of the United States was absolutely responsible to the world for the peace, quietude, and good behaviour of the people of the islands which were turned over by Spain; that the question as to the future disposition of these islands would come up in due time; that all that is necessary for the time being for the people of the Isle of Pines to do is simply to obey the existing laws, recognize the supreme authority of the United States Government, till the soil, educate the people, and build their country up. This conversation took place between the alcalde, Major Dudley, and myself.

"There also seemed to be some feeling on the part of the people about the alcalde and some of the officials not being the people of the isle, these officials having been sent to the island from Cuba. I said this matter would adjust itself at the next election. They told me that there were five candidates in the field for alcalde. I asked if

they anticipated any friction at the time of the election, and they told me no.

"It is 12 miles from Nueva Gerona to Santa Fe over fairly good road (I did not go this way, but went around by water to Santa Fe). The alcalde informed me that several bridges between these two points were in bad repair, and requested $300.00 for the purchase of material to put these bridges in order; that the law required every inhabitant to furnish so much labor or money to keep roads and bridges in repair, and that, if the material was furnished them, the law would be enforced and the people made to do the work. I therefore recommend that for this road an allotment of $300.00 be made for the purchase of material for the repair of bridges.

"I recommend also that the chief quartermaster be directed to ship on bill of lading from the supply on hand, for issue to poor Cubans, 50 axes, 50 hoes and 50 machetes, for distribution among the poorer classes in and about Nueva Gerona.

"I went from Nueva Gerona around to the mouth of the Santa Fe River by steamboat (the revenue cutter VIKING), took a small boat up the river to Jucaro, about 8 miles from the mouth, and thence overland to Santa Fe, a distance of six miles from Jucaro, through the pine woods, a very pretty drive. * * *

"The population of Santa Fe is about 400, a very attractive little place. The medicinal springs (three) are right in the town. Bathing facilities for those taking the waters are clean and neat. Found several families at the hotel who told me they had been greatly benefited by the water.

"Santa Fe has two schools, the same satisfactory condition I found those in at Nueva Gerona. * * *

"At Santa Fe there is a very good hotel, with accommodations for 15 guests. * * *

"Santa Fe is part of the municipality of Nueva Gerona. * * *

"I was accompanied on my visits to Nueva Gerona and Santa Fe by Major Dudley, judge-advocate of the division; the captain of the revenue cutter; and Mr. Metcalf, special agent of the Treasury Department, who took part with me in conversation with the officials.

"As to the general condition of affairs, I am of the opinion that our visit to the island was more or less beneficial.

"Considering the entire matter, I think it would be advisable, in view of the coming elections, to send to the island, under a selected officer, a small detachment of 6 or 8 men. There should be 4 or 5 horses in the party so that the surrounding country might be visited. This small detachment could he quartered in the Spanish barracks at Nueva Gerona, where there are ample accommodations. I saw no American flag flying on the island, the only one I saw being pinned over a back window in one of the schools.

"From all I saw on the island I am satisfied that it is capable of being quite productive, there being immense mountains of marble and fine timber land, and the warm springs and abundance of excellent cold water make it attractive as a health resort.

Very respectfully.

H. J. SLOCUM, Captain, Seventh Cavalry, Disbursing Officer.

"Officer of the Adjutant-General, Habana".

Notes on Bay of Siguanea for Colonel Whitney.

"Observations during day spent in Bay Siguanea, March 12, 1901. Had soundings made in both entrances and entirely around bay. Made landings from launch near mouth Indian River and on Punta Piedra. Tramped island and across peninsula from Punta Piedra.

"Entered through north channel aboard KANAWHA, which draws 7 ½ feet of water.

"Entrance could be defended by guns placed on Indian Keys and Indian point; ground high enough at both places.

Highest ground around bay extends from Indian Point south to the swamp; well timbered; quantities of jucaro and jique, best hardwood for construction; especially valuable for piledriving.

"First point inside of bay east of Cape Frances is called Punta Piedra or Stony Point; is most favorable point for harbor, docks, etc. Well sheltered harbor is possible with dredging. Ground rises abruptly from water to a height of from 40 to 50 feet in the center of the Peninsula. Bottom of bay dead coral rock.

"Two miles southwest across peninsula is Puerto Frances. A good anchorage, except when wind blows from south. At present station of charcoal burners. Would have to be defended to protect any station at Punta Piedra from being taken in rear.

"The few inhabitants state the whole peninsula healthy and free from malaria. The peninsula is of coral rock formation, and well timbered, jucaro, jique, and other woods plentiful.

"The south point of Indian Keys and Cape Frances are of coral rock formation and would make good foundations for defenses.

"At west entrance of bay of Siguanea a narrow bar extends from Cape Frances to Indian Keys. Soundings in both entrances and throughout the bay confirm soundings as given in official chart published by Bureau of Equipment, Navy Department.

FRANK MCCOY, Aid-de-Camp".

Habana, Cuba, November 25, 1898.

"Brig. Gen. J. W. Clous, U. S. Volunteers, Secretary United States Cuban Commission, Hotel Trotcha, Habana, Cuba.

Sir: In conformity with orders received from the commission, dated November 19, 1898, the undersigned, Majs. W. E. Elmy, M. C. Butler and Capt. Jas. Hart, accompanied by Mr. William Davis, proceeded to the Isle of Pines make the following report, covering all movements from the date of departure to return:

"Left Habana at 8:15 p. m. November 20, 1898, over the United Railroad of Habana, from Villa Nueva depot, accompanied by Messrs. Arazoza and Carcasses. Arrived Batabanoa at 10:05 p. m., and were enthusiastically received by numerous Cubans congregated on wharf at terminus of railroad.

"Embarked on side-wheel steamer PROTECTOR and sailed for Isle of Pines at 10:30 p. m. This steamer draws from 5 ¼ to 6 feet of water, and furnishes fairly comfortable stateroom accommodations for about 22 persons; its average rate of travel is about 8 knots. The course lies very nearly exactly due south to the Cruz passage between the islands of the Keys of Mangles, which was passed at 8 a. m., November 21. Here the channel is very narrow, being marked by numerous stakes stuck in the bottom, and about wide enough for only one ship to go through at a time. For a distance of one-half a mile from this passage the course lies a few points south of due west to the mouth of the Sierra de Casas River, which was passed at 9:55 a. m. the depth here being about 7 feet, the bottom being distinctly visible. The town of Nueva Gerona was reached at 10:20 a. m. lying on the left bank 2 miles from the mouth, the river being navigable 5 miles from the

mouth and furnishing an average depth of 18 feet.

"At the wharf was gathered nearly the whole male population on the town, about 350 people, who were most enthusiastic in their greeting, shouting "Viva la Comission Americana", "Viva Cuba Libre" etc., waving their hats, throwing themselves into each other's arms and fairly going wild with enthusiasm. A call was first made on Signor Betancourt, the alcalde of the town, and then on Colonel Bonet, the Spanish commander (each extending a cordial welcome. The residence of Mr. Arazoza was next visited, from the front porch of which Captain Hart addresssed the enthusiastic populace in a speech, meeting with much approval by both the Spanish and Cuban sympathizers.

Horses were furnished and the surrounding country at once visited and inspected with a view to the possible encampment of troops. Plenty of ground for this purpose can be obtained within 1 ½ to 2 miles from the town; high, slightly undulating, well-drained, moderately sandy, and a bountiful supply of clear, pure water coming from the neighboring mountains, forcing its way under the ground and appearing at a point about a mile from the river, with no means for contamination. Sufficient supply for thousands of men, and never failing. Every facility for bathing purposes. Four frame barracks remain standing (70 by 25 feet) fomerly used by the Spanish troops for hospitals.

"Boats could be advanced up the river to within half a mile of camp site, and, with easily constructed wharfage facilities, every accommodation for loading and unloading could be obtained. * * *

"A large bottle containing a sample of the drinking water was obtained for examination, if desired. This locality is unanimously recommended as an excellent place for the encampment of troops, being free from all disease, clean and healthy, favorable for hospital purposes; also for the acclimating of troops. * *

"There are three sawmills on this island furnishing lumber on the island at $20 Spanish silver per 1,000 feet:

"Many railroad ties are shipped from island, of good quality and costing about 74 cents gold each.

"To the soil has to be added guano from Peru, and by this means a good tobacco can be obtained. The Henry Clay establishment brought out 4,000 bales last year and now can supply 7,000 bales.

"The most remarkable feature of this island is the large marble quarries. About 5 miles on either side of the Casas River rise the sierras to a height of 2,000 feet—direction from north to south—formed of marble, which in former years has been quarried extensively but through bad administration seems to be discontinued entirely.

"On the coast two miles east of the town was visited an excellent sandy beach, with every advantage for salt water surf bathing.

"The medicinal spring and bath on the outskirts of Nueva Gerona were next visited. This spring is considered by the people at this place to be as fully efficacious as the springs at Santa Fe, visited the next, but the Springs at the latter place are undoubtedly of greater value in their medicinal properties, being impregnated with lime, magnesia, calcium, sodium and peroxide of iron. Attached to original report is a printed pamphlet entitled "Memoir on the Salubrity of the Isle of Pines" by Dr. Don Jose de la Luz Hernandez.

"There is a stone barracks in the town of Nueva Gerona capable of quartering 300 men, built in the form of a square. It is in good condition, and after a thorough cleaning could be utilized as a barracks for incoming troops.

"It is suggested that an early removal of the present occupants be requested, so that ample time be had for putting it in good condition.

"A telephone line is at present in running order between the towns of Nueva Gerona and Santa Fe, which is 15 miles distant. This line is owned and operated by the Spanish Government.

"On November 22 riding horses were obtained and the town of Santa Fe visited, lying inland on the Santa Fe River about 9 miles from its mouth. Its population is about 250.

"The principal feature of this town is the presence of thermal and medicinal springs as above mentioned, the drinking water being excellent for stomach and gastrinal-intestinal trouble, and the baths for rheumatism and skin diseases, the temperature of the bath being 37 degrees C.

"The next place visited was the landing at Jucaro, on the west coast of the island, at the mouth of the Santa Fe River. This place was reached by steamer, leaving Gerona at 11 a. m., November 23rd, and arriving at 2 p. m. This landing is 6 miles from the mouth of the river, which is

navigable 8 miles from its mouth, with an average depth of 20 feet. The steamer here took on a load of tobacco settings intended for replanting in the Pinar del Rio and Habana districts of the island of Cuba. This vicinity presents no favorable features for the encampment of troops.

"Left Jucaro at 3:30 p. m. and arrived at Batabanoa, Cuba at 2 a. m. Batabanoa is a * * * town of about 2,000 inhabitants lying on the southern coast, the principal feature being a long, well constructed dock of about 300 yards in length, extending into the open sea and providing docking facilities for three lines of steamers, viz:

"1. The Menendez Line, running the steamers JOSEFITA and ANTINOGENES MENENDEZ (steel propellers) along the southern coast of Cienfuegos, Casilda, Tunas, Jucaro, Manzanilla, Santa Cruz de Sur, and Santiago, leaving on Thursday mornings, and on return trip arriving at Batabanoa on Sundays.

"2. The compania de Navegacion de Formente del Sur running the steamer (side wheel) GENERAL LERUNDI to the Isle of Pines and points on the island of Cuba, westward to Batabanoa, leaving Batabanoa Thursdays a. m.; Nueva Gerona, Fridays; Coloma, Bailen, and Punta Cartas, Saturdays. On return trip, leaving Nueva Gerona and Jucaro Mondays, arriving at Batabanoa on Tuesdays at daylight.

"3. Composed of one side-wheel steamer, the PROTECTOR leaving Batabanoa on Sundays at 10 p. m., arriving at Nueva Gerona at 9 a. m. on Mondays. Leaving Nueva Gerona on return trip at 10 a. m. Wednesdays and Jucaro at 3 p. m. same day, arriving at Batabanoa 2 o'olock Thursdays, a. m.

"This latter line is sustained by local traffic, government military transportation, and mails. For the last two items it has received no remuneration for a long time from the Spanish Government.

"At present there is stationed at Batabanoa one battalion (400) of Spanish soldiers. * * *

"Left Batabanoa by rail at 12:05 p. m. November 24, and arrived at Habana 2 p. m., same date, passing through the towns of San Felipe, Bejucal, Rincon and Cienga.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

W. M. E. ALMY, Major and Assistant Adjutant-General. *M. C. BUTLER, Jr.*, Major and Chief Ordnance Officer. *J. S. HART*, Captain, First U. S. Volunteer

Infantry".

Isle of Pines, February 22, 1899.

"Lieut. Col. Tasker H. Bliss, Chief of Customs Service, Habana, Cuba.

"Sir: In compliance with instructions contained in your letter of the 7th instant I have the honor to render the following report upon the Isle of Pines.

"This report is based upon some three weeks' experience in the island, as I had, prior to this visit, spent about one week here. I was unable to visit the southern part of the island, which is separated from the other by an impassable swamp and is accessible only by sea. In this southern section is found all the mahogany and other valuable hard woods: but as my instruction did not contemplate the chartering of a vessel I base my report in this particular upon conversations with reliable people.

"The geography of the island is already shown with sufficient accuracy and detail in the map issued by the War Department.

"In general the surface is a plateau of an elevation of some 50 to 100 feet above the sea, broken by ridges of hills or cliffs that project abruptly here and there above the general level surface.

"The soil is generally of a firm sand mixed with some clay and gravel, which makes good roads, even in rainy weather, by merely cleaning away the brush. * * *

"The only two landings, New Gerona (on the Rio Las Casas) and Jucaro (on the Rio Santa Fe), are accessible by vessels drawing 5 feet of water or less, the bars at the river mouths being very shallow.

"The southern part of the island is covered with a dense growth of valuable hard wood. The central part bears yellow pine, mostly too small for lumber, though there are considerable tracts of very fair saw logs.

"FORMER TAXES AND DUES. After careful investigation I find that the only land belonging to the State is contained in some 63 lots, each of some 50 acres, scattered about within 3 miles of New Gerona. These lots seem to be those left after the land had been picked over, as they are generally in the worst locations and practically worthless containing nothing but mangrove scrub, dwarf palmetto, and thin pine grass. A few of the lots are better and are in use as small farms, the residents paying, it is understood, a nominal rent to the "hacienda" at Havana (no record on this point in the island).

"I can find no record of dues paid to the Crown for privilege of exporting timber, but it is understood that contributions were arbitrarily levied from time to time by the military governor here. These contributions or gratifications were paid to secure immunity from official obstructions in the going and coming of vessels from the inaccessible points at which the lumber was gathered. It is presumable that a portion, at least, of these contributions were used for the island, but no record appears to have been kept of the amount or disposition.

"The governor of the island legally collected dues for the slaughtering of cattle and for the selling of the meat and also dues from stores and shops of all kinds. As a wood-chopper camp would require beef, and would also probably maintain a store for the sale of provisions, it became liable to dues, which on account of its usually inaccessible location were difficult of collection.

"To meet this difficulty the governor devised a system of dues based upon the amount of charcoal and cord wood exported, which dues were levied in lieu of those legally authorized. In accessible camps or "cuttings" the amount of export was actually ascertained, in other cuttings, more inaccessible, a lump sum per month was exacted, based upon the number of men employed.

"The quantity of mangrove and other scrubby wood available for charcoal and cord wood is practically unlimited, all the coast and the keys to the north being covered with this growth, and the State does not appear to have collected any dues for the cutting. The dues seem to have been simply in the nature of town taxes, levied on wood-choppers' camps, in order that they should not, by leaving the established town, escape the burden of taxation.

"It is believed that the impressions that dues were paid to the State for the use of its timber land in the Isle of Pines have arisen from an erroneous understanding of the system explained above.

"Since the 1st of January the taxes just cited, like all others, have not been paid, the alcalde of the island, as well as the military governor (and officer of the Cuban army) either not feeling themselves sufficiently secure to enforce payment or finding it to their material interest to allow things to run themselves. As a consequence the bridges are in need of repair, the schools are closed, the clerks living from hand to mouth without any remunera-

tion. The alcalde himself a wealthy man, has not felt the inconvenience, and as he is said to be largely interested in wood cutting and charcoal trade he is presumably satisfied to wait for orders from higher authority.

"POPULATION, etc. The island contains but two towns, New Gerona, on the north coast, and Santa Fe, in the center, the former numbering some 300 inhabitants and the latter 150. The population of the island can be set down at about 2,000.

"New Gerona is the capital of the island, and in fact the only town, as Santa Fe—15 miles distant—is officially a suburb. In this connection it would appear to be very much to the advantage of the towns (and the island) if they were officially independent. Santa Fe, with a port at Jucaro, only 7 miles away, would then become a rival of New Gerona, and both places would be stimulated to commercial and municipal competition. * * *

"Just outside of the town on an open plateau is the barracks, a large stone building, with interior courts, capable of accommodating comfortably 200 American troops, and of affording shelter if necessary to double that number. There is a wharf at the town at which the steamer "PROTECTOR", from Batabano, lands once a week. The articles exported are charcoal, tobacco poles, roofing poles, railway ties, and tobacco. There is no hotel. Invalids do not usually stop here, but go on to Santa Fe, in the center of the island, 15 miles over an excellent natural road.

"Santa Fe, 150 inhabitants: two hotels, "Ceballos" and "Santa Fe"; thermal baths of about blood temperature, medicinal springs (magnesium and iron), very favorably known by people of Habana, many of whom come here in the summer. The Spanish Government had an official surgeon here, who collected a consultation fee of $3.75 gold from each person who desired to take the baths, the patient afterwards paying 20 cents for each bath. This imposition of forced medicinal consultation before taking a tepid bath should not continue. The port of Santa Fe is Jucaro, on the Santa Fe River, 7 miles by good road. Steamer touches once a week. The only wheeled vehicles are the ancient volantes and the ox cart. Schools: None in operation now. Schoolmasters were ignorant and incompetent. The revenues having ceased, all government functions are at a standstill. The taxes formerly collected here by the Bank of Spain went to Ha-

bana, whence one fourth was afterwards remitted to the island. The only dues collectible directly by the authorities in the island were the ones for slaughtering cattle and selling beef. These would now be nil, as there are practically no cattle in the island.

"The civil expenses of the government formerly amounted to about $7,000 per annum, of which $4,000 came from the Bank of Spain and $3,000 were collected directly on beef or indirectly, as explained before, by export duties of 1 ½ cents on each sack of charcoal and 7 cents on each cord of wood. * * *

"LIVE STOGK * * * Pigs—The island is a paradise for this animal, as the vast variety of wild fruits and seeds furnish him abundant food.

"Parrots—are found in large numbers and are exported yearly.

"Fish—The shallow waters about the island abound in fish and lobsters of excellent quality.

"AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES. As an example of the wonderful variety of products, I may mention a finca or farm of less than 33 acres actual cultivation whose products include coffee, sugar, cocoa, yuca (furnishing laundry starch), cocoanuts, bananas, plantains, boniatos (sweet potatoes) malangas (answering for potatoes), beans, rice, lettuce, tobacco, honey, fowls, pigs and cattle.

"Tobacco from here sells in Havana at $40.00 per bale, though it is believed that it passes later as Vuelta Abajo tobacco at a higher price. A tobacco factory in the island would insure the recognition of the product under its own name, and, it is believed, would stimulate the growth of the staple and benefit the island. Tobacco growers here assert that the only difficulty here arises from the newness of the soil. It has not been sufficiently worked and mixed to insure a uniform crop, some plants growing rank and other poorly.

"Cocoa-Cocoa (chocolate) is raised only experimentally, but the fruit appears to be fine.

"Rice—Grows without irrigation.

"* * * Boniato (or sweet potato) This product has a particulaly fine flavor, and with reduced rates to Cuba should become a marketable product.

"Plantains—These have a sweeter flavor than those of Cuba and produce abundantly. They are now shipped to Cuba in small quantities, and should become an important article of export.

"Oranges—These have a reputation for sweetness, and the island seems particularly suited to their growth. No attention seems to have been paid to the kind of trees planted and it is believed that there is an opening there for orange growers of experience who would plant the most approved variety of stock.

"Guava—This fruit grows wild over a large part of the island and furnishes food for pigs. It might be utilized in the manufacture of the guava paste and jelly.

"Cocoanuts—These yield abundantly, though few trees have been planted. Could easily become an article of export. * * *

"The exploitation of the island as a sanitary resort is, however, the enterprise which seems to promise the greatest return to the capitalist, as well as the greatest benefit to the island itself. The mineral springs, thermal baths and healthy climate have already an established reputation. With sufficient capital to establish a large hotel and run a swift steamer of light draft to Batabano the island can be brought within eight hours or less of Habana, and the traveller runs no risk of sea sickness in the shallow sea inclosed by keys. A daily service would make the place attractive to business men of Habana and give a sale and outlet to many products not otherwise marketable.

"Very respecfully, *FRED S. FOLTZ*, Captain, Second Cavalry, Collector of Customs, Batabano, Cuba".

The reprint of letters and articles from the Platt Amendment appearing in this Chapter are published for the information of readers and to aid in drawing conclusions regarding the status of the island following the Spanish-American War and up to the Cuban occupancy.

CHAPTER VI

THE CUBAN OCCUPANCY

GENERAL CASTELLANOS made formal surrender of Spanish sovereignty in Havana January 1, 1899, having evacuated the City with 17,000 troops in December, 1898. The Cuban government was turned over by the United States Government of intervention for the Cuban occupancy on May 21, 1902, four years since the declaration of war April 11, 1898.

The report of the Foreign Relations Committee U. S. Government, Senator Foraker, Chairman, as prepared by that Committee in Doc. No. 205, 58th Congress, Second session entitled "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines" ordered to be printed February 12th, 1906, with injunction of secrecy removed, is herewith reprinted in part (full information upon this report may be gleaned by reading this document in its entirety). The report contains 276 pages and is replete with details, embodying many letters from prominent men upon this subject and the government's answers to those letters.

"The Comittee on Foreign relations, having had under consideration the treaty between the United States and Cuba, signed March 2nd, 1904, for the adjustment of title to the ownership of the Isle of Pines, report the same favorably and recommend its ratification.

"The treaty under consideration is as follows:

"The United States of America and the Republic of Cuba, being desirous to give full effect to the sixth Article of the provision in regard to the relations to exist between the United States and Cuba, contained in the Act of the Congress of the United States of America, approved March second, nineteen hundred and one, which sixth Article aforesaid is included in the Appendix to the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, promulgated on the 20th day of May, nineteen hundred and two and provides that 'The Island of Pines shall be omitted from the boundaries of Cuba specified in the Constitution, the title of ownership thereof being left to future adjustment by treaty': have for that purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries to conclude a treaty to that end:

"The President of the United States of America, John Hay Secretary of State of the United States of America: and.

"The President of the Republic of Cuba, Gonzalo de

Quesada, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Cuba to the United States of America:

"Who, after communicating to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles:

Article I "The United States of America relinquishes in favor of the Republic of Cuba all claim of title to the Island of Pines situate in the Caribbean Sea near the southwestern part of the Island of Cuba, which has been or may be made in virtue of Articles I and II of the Treaty of Peace between the United States and Spain, signed at Paris on the tenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

Article II "This relinquishment, on the part of the United States of America, of claim of title to the said Island of Pines, is in consideration of the grants of coaling and naval stations in the Island of Cuba heretofore made to the United States of America by the Republic of Cuba.

Article III "Citizens of the United States of America who, at the time of the exchange of ratitifations of this treaty, shall be residing or holding property in the Island of Pines shall suffer no diminution of the rights and privileges which they have acquired prior to the date of exchange of ratifications of this treaty; they may remain there or may remove therefrom, retaining in either event all their rights of property, including the right to sell or dispose of such property or of its proceeds; and they shall also have the right to carry on their industry, commerce and professions being subject in respect thereof to such laws as are applicable to other foreigners.

Article IV "The present treaty shall be ratified by each party in conformity with the respective constitutions of the two Countries, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the City of Washington as soon as possible.

"In Witness Whereof we, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this treaty and hereunto affixed our seals.

"Done at Washington, in duplicate, in English and Spanish, this second day of March one thousand nine hundred and four.

(Seal), *JOHN HAY.*

(Seal), *GONZALO DE QUESADA.*

(The foregoing appears on pages 1

and 2 of the "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines").

The Cuban officials took charge of the Isle of Pines, establishing their offices at the capital, Nueva Gerona, and branch offices in Santa Fe and elsewhere over the island, in June, 1904. The officers representing the Cuban Government consisted of one judge of the first instance, one municipal judge, the alcalde of Nueva Gerona, a collector of customs, captain of the port, five post offices and post masters and five assistants, one captain and two lieutenants of the rural guard, four non comissioned officers and thirty soldiers or rural police, one superintendent of public schools and ten school teachers, notary public and recorder of deeds.

"The Cuban government agrees in order to further safeguard the rights of American citizens residing in the Isle of Pines: (1) To maintain at least one school on the island where the English language shall be taught by an English speaking teacher. (2) That no leper or other hospital shall be established or maintained for the treatment or cure of non resident patients suffering infectious diseases; and that no penal institution shall be established or maintained excepting for the safe keeping and care of local prisoners. (3) That a port of entry and clearance shall be immediately established at some convenient point in the island. (4) That a court of record shall be immediately established at Nueva Gerona and all land records of the island transferred to and deposited there. (5) That the alcalde and other administrative officers of the island shall be appointed by the president of Cuba." (Enc. in No. 541, addressed to John Hay, Secy. of State, Washington, D. C., by H. D. Squires, dated Havana, Cuba, May 20, 1903 appearing on page 182 "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines").

This treaty and report is conclusive and final, couched in language that cannot be misconstrued. As per Art. II of the above treaty the U. S. Government have already accepted from Cuba two coaling stations in exchange as per said treaty. The reader, if of an analytical mind, will at once understand that the possibility of repealing this final decision is remote, in fact it probaby will be ratified. It is not a case of justice, it is a decision finally reached by the United States Government and Cuba. Never mind what undercurrent might have guided this decision, the treaty was handed down by John Hay and

Gonzalo de Quesada, and in the judgment of the author the treaty will never be repealed by either government, because as shown, the United States does not desire the Isle of Pines and Cuba does desire it, and Cuba's administration of it since 1904 is possession, which is nine points of the law. Then consider the amounts of money the Cuban Government has spent upon the roads of the island since 1904.

There is no reason why the property owners of the Isle of Pines should not adjust themselves to the laws of the Cuban government regarding their administration of the island and all persons going there for the purpose of property ownership and all people living there will be far more successful if they will accept the inevitable and live with the Cuban officials and other Cubans on the island in peace and accord. It is much better for everybody concerned to get together and work in harmony, especially in a small community.

The united solid front is better than having gaps in the line, particularly where there are civic improvements needed. The author is a property owner on the island and during his recent sojourn there he took occasion to study the positions of the Cuban officials on the Isle, meeting the Cubans in a business and social way, and it may be stated that he found them willing to meet the Americans more than half way. This spirit on their part will no doubt be accentuated should the American property owners deal with them in a polite and friendly way rather than in a gruff and antagonistic manner.

There is justice in the spirit of the Cuban laws. The constitution of Cuba was drawn up by Cubans and Americans and equity was the watchword upon which that constitution was framed.

Americans living on the Isle of Pines should adjust themselves to the laws of Cuba irrespective of ninety percent of American ownership. It seems the destiny of the island to be a part of Cuba. As the old saying goes,

CHAPTER VII

THE SECOND AMERICAN COLONIZATION

IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE YEAR 1918 that another decided colonization movement was felt in the Isle of Pines. Wherein there were more or less purchases made each year, it took eight years for the property owners to adjust themselves to the Cuban occupancy. There existed an apathy and a reluctance to recognize the authority of the Cuban government in its rights to administer the laws of the island, but like all wounds, they usually heal and with the convalsecent period sober judgment comes to those who have suffered pain and anguish.

With this milder viewpoint came better conditions in general; endeavors were made to fill up the gaps along the lines and to resell and settle new homeseekers in those places abandoned by the less temeritous, who had left the island possibly never to return, and as a whole those endeavors were successful.

There are always a certain number of people who are willing to be pioneers and the laborers in the development of any new country, but upon the shoulders of those people rests a heavy burden and they are not as a rule the ones who reap the full benefits from such developments. Usually those who follow the pioneer are the ones who gather in the harvest brought about through the other man's efforts. Every new country necessarily must undergo certain improvements in order to make that country more habitable for those who shirk hard work, therefore, the advent of this second American colonization was more successful than the first one as far as permanent settlers were concerned, so the population of the island was increased; new homes were built by those arriving upon the lands abandoned by their predecessors.

The corporations owning the larger tracts of land were liberal in their appropriations for new highways and other improvements and the Cuban Government assisted in such work. The population as a whole were pulling together. There existed then, as always, a certain fascination in the name, in the location and in the aspect of the island in its entirety; an unknown force that could not be shaken off were one inclined to do so; an irresistible power which drew like a magnet was all that could be explained. Was that unknown force the same

as men experienced during the early days of California! Was it for riches or was it a desire for real contentment that was drawing people to the island?

The author believes after studying the events year by year since the Spanish American war, that the great attraction drawing Americans to the Isle of Pines is not for money, but due to the fact that it is a place near to their homes—an island in the Antilles—the Isle of Destiny—where nature beckoned them to live in peace and happiness; a home in the tropics away from the blast of the cold and the sleet; a land of mountains and valleys, sunshine and shadows, on a placid sea, where the palm and all verdure are ever green—a contrast to the leaden skies, the barren trees and the snow and ice covered countryside of the northern winters.

However, be as it may, the Americans journeyed to the island; they came from all of the states and from Canada; they purchased lands and built homes. Some were satisfied—others were disappointed—the same as is the case in all places on the face of the globe. Those seeking a paradise on this earth will never find that haven, for there is no such place. The ages of humanity will forever be moving and there will always be people visiting the Isle of Pines, especially Americans, for it has been that nationality that became sufficiently interested to have given to the island the first real touch of civilization. In spirit this island will always be considered American territory; it will forever be looked upon by the Anglo-Saxon from that standpoint. Therefore, the English speaking races will no doubt inhabit it generation upon generation, through the ages of man.

Lest we forget, let it be remembered that the American energy and capital which has been expended by the thousands of property owners on the Isle of Pines has served as a publicity medium and that advertising has had its effects upon the minds of the people of both the past and present generations; that such publicity has been subtle, penetrating nearly every town and hamlet and into every home throughout the northern part of the Western Hemisphere.

There probably was no territory in the United States seeking statehood that had such interstate discussion as that given the Isle of Pines. Congress from 1898 to 1906 was continuously agitated over the matter of its ownership. Senators and representatives were deluged with let-

ters urging those law makers to stand by the promises that President McKinely made to the people. Commissions to investigate those letters were appointed by Congress. The State department was continuously besieged by Senators requesting information on the subject. The interpretation of the Peace Treaty at Paris, especially Articles I and II were read and reread; the best legal minds were employed by the property owners of the island. Finally the Government ordered the entire correspondence to be printed (injunction of secrecy removed). This matter required two hundred and seventy seven pages set in eight and ten point type of solid reading. There is much space given to argument wherein the United States Government of intervention administering the island under the direction of a Governor General, wherein those leading public officials on the island were appointed by the Governor and the intention of the United States to turn the island over to the Cuban Government for them to administer the Isle of Pines as a de facto government during the settlement of the discussion as to ownership, instead of United States assuming that attitude.

Some people claimed, according to the correspondence in "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines" that Elihu Root while Secretary of War, was prejudiced against the Isle of Pines and that he broke his faith with the people when he failed to carry out certain promises he had made them as regards to continuance of the administration of the island and American protectorship until the final discussion relative to ownership was settled (p. 15 "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines"). (Note: The author believes, as before stated in this book, that whereas the Secretary of the Army had the power to determine whether or not the United States desired the Isle of Pines and that General Fitzhugh's Lee's letter determined in the mind of Mr. Root that the United States did not desire the possession of the island because of the shallow waters surrounding it, which would render it incapable of maintaining a deep sea port, and had General Lee made a trip to the South Coast that discussion would probably have been averted and possibly the Isle of Pines would have had an entirely different report made upon it and further possible that the Secretary of War would have then recommended to the cabinet and through that medium to Congress, the advisability of United States ownership).

During the period from 1901 to 1905 there were about 1000 people in the United States who purchased land in the island and in 1910 5000 people had contracted and received deeds—one thousand deeds being issued during the year 1910—making a total of 5,000 purchases since 1901.

Before the close of 1910 one thousand buildings, at a cost of approximately $500,000 had been erected (some very costly and beautiful homes had been built). Two thousand Americans were then living in the island.

The Government Department of Public Works of Cuba had expended (since 1901) $140,000 in public roads and bridges. Private owners had expended on the public highways and bridges over $50,000, making a total of $210,000 for one hundred and fifty miles of roads.

Several citrus fruit groves and packing houses were bearing and packing fruit in 1910—one battery of groves and a packing house had expended over half a million dollars in development work. There were in 1910 two hundred citrus fruit groves on the island, representing an outlay of over $2,000,000.

The first commercial grove to come in was Mason Bros., at La Seiba and the first packing house completed and put in operation was on the same property.

There was much experimenting done with both grape fruit and orange trees, including the native stock. The tastes of northern consumers and the cultivated taste for grape fruit had to be creeated—the wholesale jobbers and retailers were watching the demands of the purchasers at the markets. Freight rates and duties had been considered.

During this period varities of pineapples were tried out, including the "Sugar Loaf", the "Spanish Red" and "Cayenne". The market was changing constantly due to the demands of the consumers and the buyers. Crates and the labeling of the fruits were experimented with. Some of the varities were not meeting with favor in the Northern markets. Groves not properly cared for were burned up. Certain sizes and colors of fruit were being demanded.

Every wholesaler, jobber and retailer in the Northern markets recognized the great value of the quality, the flavor and the tenderness of pulp of the juicy fruit from the Isle of Pines. They appreciated the fact that the maturity of the citrus fruit on the island was nearly three

months earlier than in any other district, therefore bringing fancy prices.

Between 1910 and 1915 there was probably a million dollars expended in experiments with citrus fruits on the Isle of Pines and it was not until 1920 that the end of the experimental stage was reached and a definite plan of culture, size, color, packing and shipping established.

In 1920 the "Walters" variety of grape fruit was recognized as the money crop in fruit culture on the Isle of Pines.

From 1910 to 1922 there has been $240,000 expended on roads and bridges in the island. It has been discovered that owing to forest fires, concrete, cement and steel for the construction of bridges as well as for the houses are the most practical for the Isle of Pines. Including the $210,000 expended in good roads and bridges from 1901 to 1910, there has been $450.000 paid out by the Cuban Government and about $75,000 more by private parties, totaling over half a million dollars for the island districts.

During 1915 a large pineaple crate mill was established by a Cuban Pineapple concern west of La Seiba, Isle of Pines employing thirty men—the entire output being taken by that corporation.

In 1918 a Tampa, Florida, Steamship Company placed in commission a small steamer plying between Tampa and Nueva Gerona, much to the advantage of the wholesale houses of Tampa and the retailers of Nueva Gerona.

Several sawmills (employing about one hundred men) are in existence, scattered over the island, and the marble works at Nueva Gerona (at the base of the Caballos mountains) employ in the quarry and the works about twenty men.

Following the predictions of Piña (1849), an American Company, in 1920, denounced most of the mineral lands of the Isle of Pines. (Note: Under the Cuban Mineral laws a firm or individual may denounce lands that show mineral deposits, by complying with the laws). This corporation installed a diamond drill and proceeded to do prospecting. There have been a large number of holes made with the drill and several shafts sunk from which cross cuts and stopping have been done, the ore blocked out and samples shipped for analysis. This work once commenced has been continually carried on. It is stated that at the Pino mines in Esperanza a considerable development has taken place. Extensive veins and large

deposits of gold, silver and antimony are said to have been found in paying quantities and that permanent mining will be carried on indefinitely.

On February 17, 1921, the United States Government dispatched the S. S. "PADUCAH" and the U. S. S. Subchaser No. 190 to the waters surrounding the Isle of Pines for the purpose of making a triangular survey. These vessels carried a crew of eighty men. A base was established at Cerro de la Ensenada, Plata del Columpo, and angles made to Cabo Frances, the northern key of Cayos de los Indios, Cayos de Dios, Cayo de la Pipa and Canal de Ingles. Camp Bowers was established at Savannah Grande. Signal towers were erected at the end of each triangle. When the main triangulation was completed a chart was made indicating the exact locations and depths of water around the island and among the keys.

These charts are now in use by navigators and will no doubt encourage the establishment of light houses. Except at Cape Frances there are no lighthouses surrounding the Isle of Pines.

At the close of 1921 there were 8,000 Americans owning property on the Isle of Pines—750 of whom resided on the island, the balance being scattered over the United States of America and foreign countries.

The citrus fruit crops for 1922 amounted to $150,000 net to the one hundred growers on the island and the vegetable crop of 1922 amounted to approximately $50,000 net to the growers.

The establishment of a new telephone system at Nueva Gerona, with exchanges at Santa Fe and Santa Barbara, will mean an annual saving of thousands of dollars in time and gasoline and will aid, no doubt, in the speeding up of work already begun.

The building of a calsada from Santa Fe to Caleta Grande (South Shore) and the completion of the calsada (already begun) from Santa Fe across Cisterna Heights to Los Indios are essentials not to be forgotten.

The inauguration of a new steamship Company connecting New Orleans by water route affords a larger and better market in a U. S. world port (the second largest in America) for the merchants of the island to do their trading and means a greater reduction in the cost of living much to the advantage of the residents on the Isle of Pines.

CHAPTER VIII

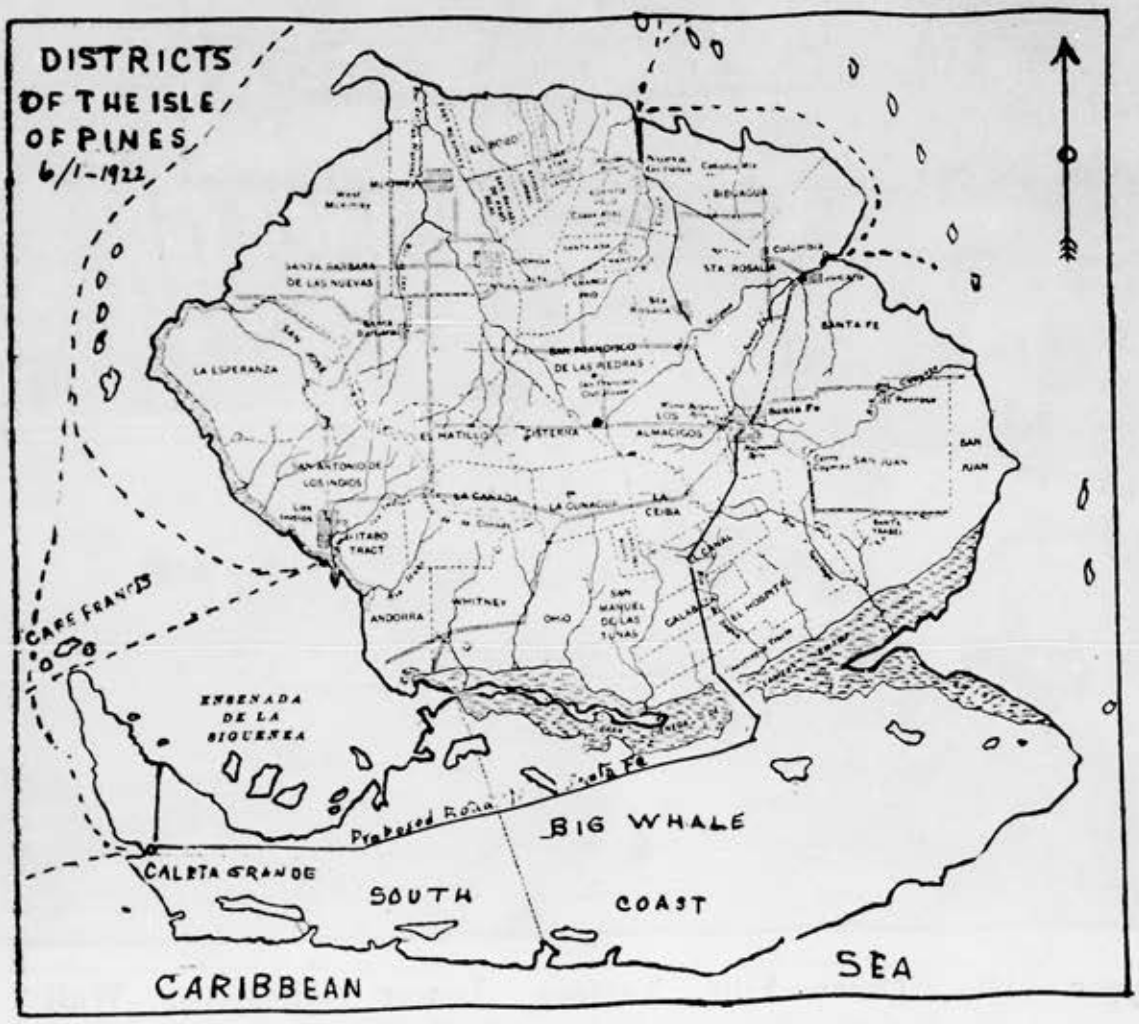
THE ISLAND DISTRICTS

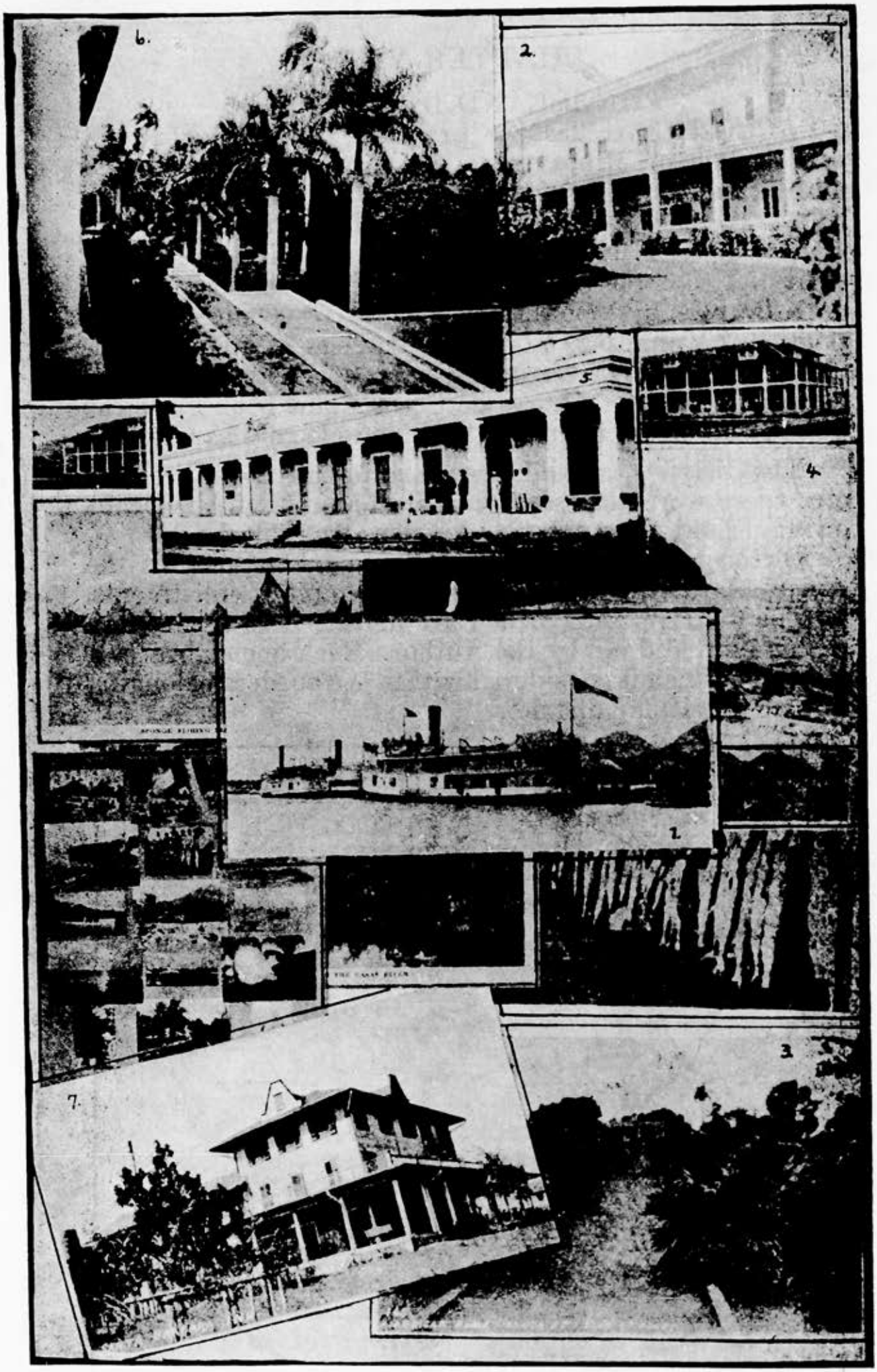
ACCORDING TO the present (1922) development of the Isle of Pines there are nine districts situated within its boundaries, viz., Nueva Gerona, Santa Fe, Santa Barbara, McKinley, Los Indios, Columbia, San Padro, Cisterna Heights and Caleta Grande. The Cuban officials, however, in their book "Direccion General Del Censo "published by the Government 1920, page 16 (Municipio) state the districts as follows: Cuchilla Alta, Nueva Gerona, Punta del Este, Santa Fe, Sierra de Caballos, Sierra de Casas. This book gives the population of the island as 4,228 and electors as 686.

The districts, as told elsewhere in this book, are now etc., there were only seven hundred and fifty Americans on the island when the above census was taken.

Owing to the World War having taken some of the American families to the States on account of enlistments,

The districts as recorded are arranged in accordance with a plan laid out by the Author. Each one embraces a territory which is considered within the borders belonging to that particular district.





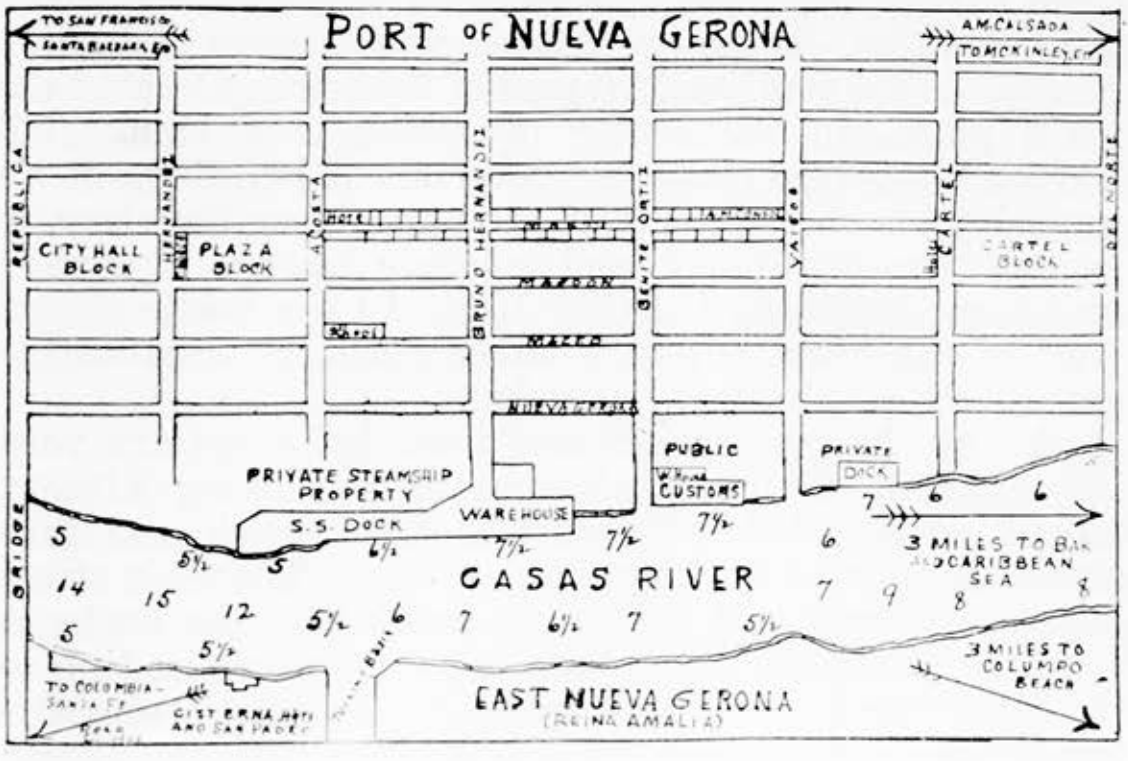
Upper left.—"Casas Villa, Terrace. Lower right.—The Wall Estate. Center.—Fleet of I. P. S/S Co.

PORT OF NUEVA GERONA AND DISTRICT

CHART OF THE PORT

LOCATION

THE PORT OF NUEVA GERONA is located on the western bank of the Casas River, two miles from the Bar, its mouth the Caribbean Sea. On the east bank of the river, three miles northeast of the port, is Columpo Beach. At the Bar within the channel the water is nine feet deep. There are markers which indicate the channel. Pata del Columpo (the Rock of Gibraltar) is east of the entrance to the mouth of the River. There is no lighthouse to indicate the entrance to the channel, except the light on the Government radio station. There are no bell buoys at the mouth. The rise and fall of tide is two feet (normal). The width of the channel to the docks at the landing of the port is about sixty feet wide, average, and the water in this channel varies from five and one-half to fifteen feet deep, as per soundings on accompanying chart. The Quarantine Station is located on the western bank, near the entrance. The Custom House dock (Government property) is situated just above Sita Branch on the same side. On the east coast of the River the banks are five feet above the stream (no developments at present).



There is a turning basin at the docks of a private steamship company's wharf, extending into the banks on the eastern side of the River.

The docks of the Custom House wharf and the private steamship company are located in the center of the town—the former about sixty by twenty-five feet in length—and there is a small warehouse located thereon. The docks of the latter are ninety by thirty and forty-five by eighteen feet (improvements now going on for more extensive docks and larger warehouses). The Company operates a fleet of three passenger and freight steamers, between this port and Batabano, also a launch for the use of excursion parties. Another steamship company operates a steamer between this port and Tampa, Florida, and another line is about to install a service between the island and New Orleans. A stationary bridge spans the river about two hundred yards above the private steamship company's docks. This bridge connects with the main calsada which leads to Santa Fe, Jucaro, Columbia, Columpo and Vivijagua beaches.

The Port of Nueva Gerona is located below the entrance of the Casas Valley, skirting the western bank and the Caribbean Sea, and is thirty feet above the sea level. The town proper embraces about ten square blocks, which consist of twelve Cuban government buildings and thirty private store buildings, six of which are general stores. All buildings excepting four, are one story high, most of them having archways which extend to the outer edge of the sidewalks. There are fifteen wide streets and three plazas. In the southeastern part of the town is located the main plaza, in the center of which is a bandstand. Surrounding this plaza are government buildings of an imposing character. East of the plaza, near the river, is located another plaza and another group of public buildings, including the City Hall. In the northwestern part of the town, within a whole block, is situated the cartel (the government barracks).

All of the government and town buildings are very imposing in their architecture and coloring effects, mostly constructed with marble, stone, brick and lime stucco, supported by Corinthian columns. The main street is named Marti and the artery leading to the docks is Bruno Hernández. The other calles (streets) leading to the river are Republica, Hernandez, Acosta, Benito Ortiz, Vaigos, Cartel and del Norte. The calsadas (turn-

pikes) which lead out of the port are south to San Francisco Heights, Santa Ana, Cisterna Heights, McKinley Santa Barbara, Westport, Los Indios and San Pedro. To the southeast Santa Fe, Jucaro, Columbia and to the northeast Vivijagua and Columpo Beaches,

There are two hotels within the limits of the City one major and one minor. The major hotel is a very imposing and well appointed hostelry, fronting on the Cartel, Plaza Square. There is also a radio and telegraph station and an American Consulate.

There are thirty stores (six general) one newspaper, one bank, three cigar factories, one marble slab and block sawing and finishing plant, one automobile garage, accessories and repair plant, one machine shop, one small marine ways, a sloop auxiliary yacht for charter by parties desiring to make fishing trips to the banks of St. Frances and the South Shore, and one moving picture theater.

The port and capital of the Isle of Pines contains about one hundred government employees, made up as follows: a judge of the first instance, an alcalde, a municipal judge, collector of customs, captain of the port, notario, register of deeds, superintendent of public schools, postmaster, captain of the rural guard and soldiery, radio operator and their respective assistants.

There is a part of the town of Nueva Gerona not in the city proper, known as New Town. No title to this land seems to exist other than government ownership. About eighty percent of the property within the city blocks of the port is owned by Cubans. There are two American schools in the town.

THE DISTRICT OF NUEVA GERONA, which includes Santa Ana, Palm Grove, San Francisco Heights, De Las Piedras, Reina Amalia, East of the Caballos, and Sierra de Casas, has an area of fifteen square miles. The total population within this region (1922) is about one thousand people, two hundred and thirteen of whom are Americans and owning ninety per cent of the land. Thirty-nine are under twenty-one years of age. The total acreage in cultivated land (according to a survey made in 1921) is one thousand three hundred and seventy-seven acres, of which seven hundred and seventy-two acres are in grape fruit trees over seven years old, and three hundred and eight acres are in grape fruit and orange trees from three to six years old. The total valuation of this one thousand three hundred and seventy-seven

acres of cultivated land is $1,884, 600.00, of which the acreage of San Francisco Heights lands is valued at $950,000.00.

This entire district is situated in the Casas Valley, which runs south from the Caribbean Sea along the Rio Sierra de Casas and the calsada leading to Santa Rosalia (the noted mineral springs), the Sierra de Casas mountains being on the west and the Sierra de Caballos on the northeast, a most picturesque valley, the mountains towering above it, covered with a foliage of woodland to their summits, and on the base of the Caballos there are immense deposits of marble, the quality of which is unsurpassed for decorative and buildings materials.

Emerging from the port of Nueva Gerona, going south, the country is rolling and gradually ascends until San Francisco Heights is reached, which place is about two hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea.

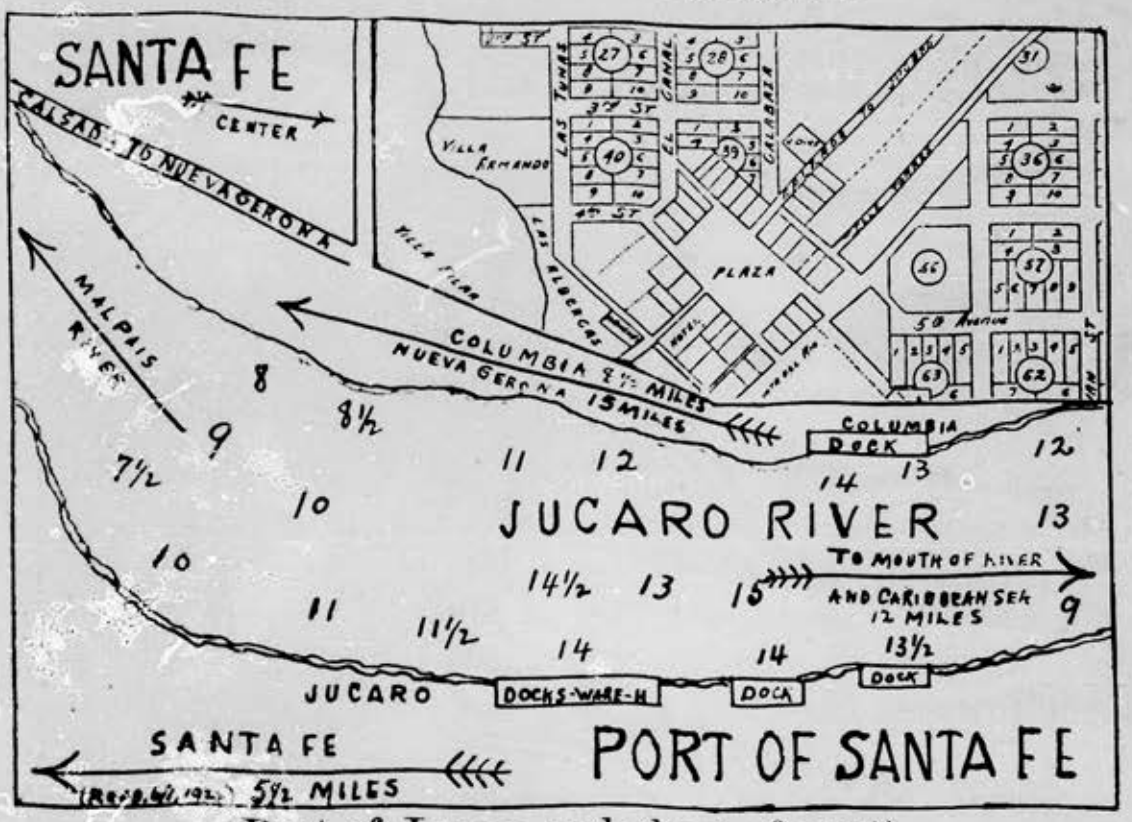
SAN FRANCISCO HEIGHTS is situated eight miles from Nueva Gerona, on a main calsada in a rolling country which is very picturesque. A large acreage has been cleared of trees and underbrush. Here are located extensive grape fruit and orange groves controlled by two separate corporations who operate packing houses. Several attractive and expensive residences have been erected by wealthy northern people on this property. This part of the district is regarded by many as the leading show place of the island and is as a rule the first locality to be viewed by tourists visiting the Isle of Pines.

SANTA ANA is reached on the same calsada leading to San Francisco Heights, being four miles nearer Nueva Gerona. It has considerable development. There are several beautiful homes in this part of the district, with fruit groves connected therewith. Some of the American merchants doing business in Nueva Gerona live at this place.

PALM GROVE, EL CIEGO AND PASO LUIS are also places where American men doing business in Gerona live. These places have some very expensive and attractive residences. The homes are along the Casas River, where boating is enjoyed—motor boats being a feature among the residents.

SALTO GRANDE AND EL MAMEY are also adjacent to the capital.

SANTA FE AND DISTRICT



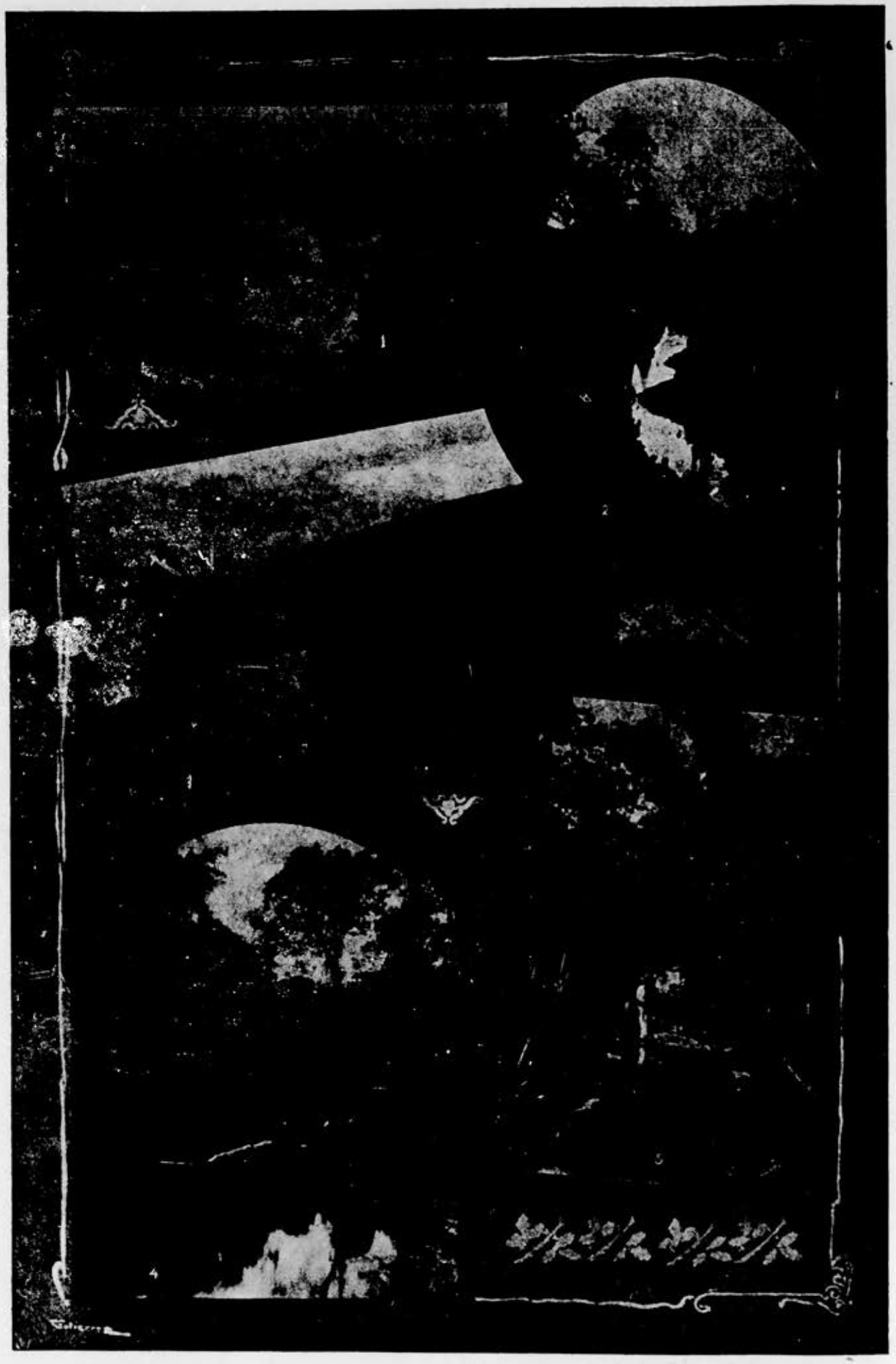
(Port of Jucaro and chart of port)

Location

THE TOWN OF SANTA FE is situated on the Rio de Santa Fe at the junction of Los Almacigos, two miles northwest of the Cerro Caiman, four miles from Cerro Mal Pais and three miles from Cerro de la Seiba. A main calsada leads to the port of Jucaro, five and a half miles distant. Jucaro is located on the river by the same name at the confluence of the Rio del Mal Pais. The town is on a plateau, two hundred feet above the sea.

The town of Santa Fe proper covers about five blocks over a rolling country, with two plazas, one on each side of the river: a bridge connects the old and the new part of the town. The old part has a plaza on the northeast side of the river, which extends the length and width of three city blocks and has about twenty Spanish laurel trees, some of which are more than two hundred years old. On the northeast side is situated the cartel where the officers and rural police are housed. On the opposite side are stores and there are also stores on Calle 2, leading to the bridge. Residences surround this Parque Central and a moving picture theater is near the bridge.

The new part of the town on the opposite side of the river and west of the bridge has the distinction of having the famous Santa Rita Springs. These Springs are enclosed in a brick house within the grounds of a modern,



Scenes along the South Western Shore.

up-to-date hotel patronized mostly by wealthy Cubans from Havana. Under the bridge near the river are located the Magnesium and Iron Springs, also made famous during the past three centuries.

On the public square surrounding the hotel there is another hotel, also a bank building, back of which is situated a very pretentious residence known as "Villa Armando". In the north part of the town there is located a Spanish laurel tree several hundred years old, the roots and branches of which cover over two hundred feet square. The tree is 35 feet in diameter and famous, being one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the world. Pilgrimages are made to see this tree and picnics are continually held under its branches. Opposite this noted spot there is situated one of the most beautiful estates in the Isle of Pines—a colonial residence set within most wonderful grounds and resplendent with shrubbery, hedges, flowers and tropical foliage.

On the same calsada and next to the big tree is the electric light, water and ice plant, and next is the Isle of Pines Fair Grounds, adjoining which is a very imposing Masonic Temple, or hall. There are three churches within the limits of the town—Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist—each having parsonages.

There are twelve stores (three general), bottling works, two hotels, two springs, electric light and ice plant. The principal calles are Los Tumas, El Canal, Second Calle, Tures, Los Alberges, Calle de Caballos.

The main calsada which leads to Jucaro and also direct from Santa Fe to Nueva Gerona is the government highway which was completed during the term of American intervention under the direction of General Wood at Havana. This roadway has cement conduits and protectors and offers rapid transit via automobile to Nueva Gerona, a distance of twelve miles.

The port of Jucaro is situated on the Jucaro River twelve miles from its mouth; the water at the Bar is nine feet deep and the width of the channel is fifty feet, from the Bar to the docks. The soundings near the docks are given herewith in the accompanying chart—fourteen feet deep. There are three docks and a warehouse and custom house located at this port.

Santa Fe is the oldest town in the Isle of Pines and on account of the Santa Rita Springs and hotel it has become famous the world over. The town is beautifully

situated on a most delightful country of rolling hills and vales, with wonderful trees and shrubbery.

THE DISTRICT OF SANTA FE which includes Jucaro and La Seiba, has an area of eight miles square—forty thousand acres—thirty-four thousand acres of which are in Santa Fe proper. The total population within this region 1922 is 1,100-66 of whom are Americans owning about eighty per cent of this land, 25 are under twenty-one years of age.

The total acreage in cultivated land (according to a survey made in 1921) is 490 acres, of which 360 acres are in grape fruit and orange trees over seven old and 84 acres of grape fruit and orange trees from three to six years old.

The total valuation of this 490 acres is $847,100.00 of which the lands of Santa Fe proper are valued at $800,100.00.

LA SEIBA is located on the main calsada leading through Cunagua en route to San Pedro. In La Seiba there are several large well developed groves, among them is the oldest grove on the island.

LOS ALMACIGOS, EL CANAL, CALABAZA, LA CUNAGUA, SANTA RITA DE LA JAGUA, SAN FRANCISCO DE LA VEGA AND SAN CARLOS might be added to the Santa Fe District. EL HOSPITAL and SAN JUAN surround Santa Fe.

The route overland to the South Shore runs via El Canal and Calabaza, through Paso de Piedras. When this route is improved the travel over it will mean much to Santa Fe.

SANTA BARBARA AND DISTRICT

LOCATION

THE TOWN OF SANTA BARBARA is located on the Rio Callejon (Rio Nuevas) fourteen miles and ten miles from Nueva Gerona via two main calsadas. The fourteen mile route is via McKinley and the other through Santa Ana. Cerro de Santa Barbara rises four miles on the southwest and one mile further southwest is Cerro de las Ensenada. Four miles south is located Santa Barbara Heights, two miles southwest of which is Cerro del Vigia and Cerro de la Magdelena, from which the Rio del Callejon derives its source.

The Spring Aguas thermales San Rosario (noted for the cure of rheumatism) is sitated two miles north of the town. Santa Barbara Beach is at Pta. de Tirry, the mouth of the Nuevas River, four miles further north from the Springs and eight miles from the town of Santa Barbara.

In 1902 what is now the town of Santa Barbara was a wilderness. The trees covering the present location along the Rio Callejon and on the hills surounding the stream were felled. The axe and the saw of those pioneers who ventured there were in constant use for more than two years; clearing, surveying and building were then going on as only can be accomplished by men of northern energy. When a fifty room hotel was built upon these cleared lands, with modern improvements, such as up-to-date plumbing, shower and tub baths, ice plant, bakery, laundry, etc., a northern stranger then wandering over the land happened in that neighborhood and after looking over the hotel he asked the man in charge of it "What is expected of such a building situated out in the wilderness?" The man replied "We expect to fill this hotel with northern homeseekers, this place will be patronized by the people before they build their homes hereabouts; we doubt if it is large enough to accommodate the thousands of Americans who will visit here". The man laughed at his informant and went away.

Within two years from that date the stranger who had visited the spot two year prior called again and was astounded to find his informant's statement had come true. The hotel was not large enough then to take care of the public demanding accommodations. A few years afterwards this hotel was enlarged and has since been

kept open to the public, always serving first class American cooking, prepared by American chefs. It might be added that this hotel has always maintained its own vegetable gardens, a large henery and turkey farm and that they have slaughtered their own cattle, lambs and sheep, besides maintaining jersey bred cows, thus supplying their own table.

Santa Barbara was for years the headquarters for those seeking homes in that town, also in the town of Mc Kinley and other parts of the island; and for those settling at Santa Barbara Heights and at Westport. It has ever been a rendezvouz since its erection for Americans living in all districts of the island.

Santa Barbara is located on a rolling country, one hundred and seventy-five feet above the level of the sea. During 1900 it was in the heart of a great pine forest, the land sustaining trees of enormous size, many being sixty and seventy feet in height. There is probably no healthier spot on the island and there is no better water any where for domestic use.

Many comfortable and even pretentious homes have been built in this town; the calles and calsadas are kept in good repair. There is a plaza central; two churches—Episcopal and Methodist; and one parsonage; a large community club house; a school house (American teacher); eight stores (two general); a bakery; a modern meat and fish market; photograph gallery and a public bathing and swimming pool.

This town is headquarters for fruit grove caretakers, there being several living within this district who have considerable equipment for carrying on such work. This district also contains several fruit nurseries and two fruit and vegetable packing houses.

SANTA BARBARA DISTRICT, which includes Santa Barbara Heights, Santa Barbara de Las Nuevas, San Jose, Westport and La Esperanza, has an area of fifteen miles square—fifty thousand acres in the Santa Barbara tract. The total population within this district (1922) is 400 people, 263 of whom are Americans owning with other Americans 98% of the land within this district; 75 are under twenty-one years of age.

The total acreage in cultivated land (according to a survey made in 1921) is 1061 acres, of which 611 acres are in grape fruit and orange trees over seven years old, and 369 acres of grape fruit trees from three to six

years old.

The total valuation of this property (1061 acres of cultivated land) is $1.659,800,00. of which Santa Barbara lands proper are valued at $1,500.000.00.

SANTA BARBARA HEIGHTS is located four miles distant from Santa Barbara on a turnpike leading to Los Indios and Cisterna Heights, in which are several highly developed fruit groves and vegetable lands. Here there is situated a firm who are caretakers and developers of groves, having all the necessary equipment for planting, pruning, spraying, etc.

There is a fruit and vegetable packing plant and a school house maintained on these Heights. This school is run by American subscriptions for the teaching of American children.

WESTPORT is situated four miles west of Santa Barbara on a turnpike which terminates at Siguanea Bay, del Pino (Pine River, which has its source in the Cerro del Vigia six miles south). This turnpike enters the main calsada leading into Santa Ana and San Francisco Heights on the east.

There is a pier extending 600 feet into Siguanea Bay, built of bamboo corduroy. This hacienda joins on to La Esperanza. Westport and del Pino had a few years ago a railroad known as the Isle of Pines Railroad (the first to be built on the Isle of Pines). Railroad ties and some rails are all that is left to show this former development.

There are several homes and groves scattered over the hacienda; also a town hall and store building.

MCKINLEY DISTRICT

LOCATION

During the Pan-American Exposition (held at Buffalo N. Y., during the summer of 1900) there was a certain group of men living in Buffalo who became interested in the Isle of Pines. After a time they purchased a tract of land there and named it "McKinley" in memory of President McKinley, who had taken enough interest in the island to have declared that it was United States territory.

In 1902 surveying and clearing were going on at McKinley and subsequently many homes were built and groves planted, some of which became productive.

There were men connected with this enterprise who had heart enough to sympathize with the struggling

pioneer, the man who had temerity sufficient to blaze the way into a wild and undeveloped country; consequently the company controlling the land undertook to place that settlement and colony upon an easier paying basis than they had first contemplated, looking ahead for better days instead of endeavoring to make all they could out of the enterprise upon short notice. The result of such a broad minded policy is today noticeable all over the community. Prosperity finally reigned supreme and now there are here established a healthy and contented people who are law abiding and living in peace with their neighbors.

The local community spirit has probably been more religiously carried on in McKinley than in any other district on the island. The people in this locality have lived after the order of a clan in Scotland, inasmuch as they have mostly kept to themselves, worked for themselves as a whole and finally they were the first to establish a Community House and a community packing plant and to conduct both institutions upon an economical and profit sharing basis. Their idea was to eliminate the middle man, thereby saving for themselves the profits that usually go to such individuals.

McKinley was the first purely American colony established on the Isle of Pines. The acreage of the tract upon which the town was started was small as compared with other areas laid out for colonies upon the island. However, additional lands were obtained as the demands required and finally a limit was reached prohibiting any further expansion of land.

McKinley is situated on a rolling and undulating plateau, on the eastern bank of the Rio de las Nuevas, three miles from its mouth and one mile north from the confluence of the Nuevas and Callejon Rivers, and one and one half miles north of the confluence of the Nuevas and Medio Rivers, being located between the banks of the Nuevas and Medio Rivers and embracing the entire territory between the two, as far as the Four Town sites upon which it is located go. On the east side of the Nuevas River, extending to the sea, is East McKinley and the beach,—a very advantageous and delightful location. The depth of the water at the bar is at present four feet, three inches; proposed dredging of 390 meters to nine feet deep. (Some dredging was done several years ago) The water to three meters out on the banks is from 3½ to 4 fathoms.

Inside it is from 10 to 15 feet deep.

The homes are scattered over the town and have the appearance of a substantial and well-to-do class of people.

McKinley is 7½ miles from Nueva Gerona, on the main calsada, where most of the trading is carried on.

In the town proper there are two stores, colony community club house, one church and one school house. On the calsada leading to Nueva Gerona within the limits of the town, is situated the community packing house.

MCKINLEY DISTRICT, which includes West McKinley, East McKinley, El Bobo, San Rafael de Paso Real, Arroyo Corral, and Lone Star, an area of ten miles square, has a total population (1922) of 130 people, 49 of whom are Americans and live within the limits of McKinley proper and who own 96% of this land. 16 are under 21 years of age. The total acreage in cultivated lands in McKinley proper is 455 acres, of which 321 acres are in grape fruit trees over seven years old and 98 acres in grape fruit and orange trees from three to six years old. The total valuation of this 455 acres of cultivated land is $329,200.00.

EL BOBO adjoins East McKinley, fronting on the main calsada, which runs from McKinley to Nueva Gerona, also on the Caribbean Sea. The balance of the haciendas included in this district are on the south side of the main calsada, between the boundary line of East McKinley and Nueva Gerona.

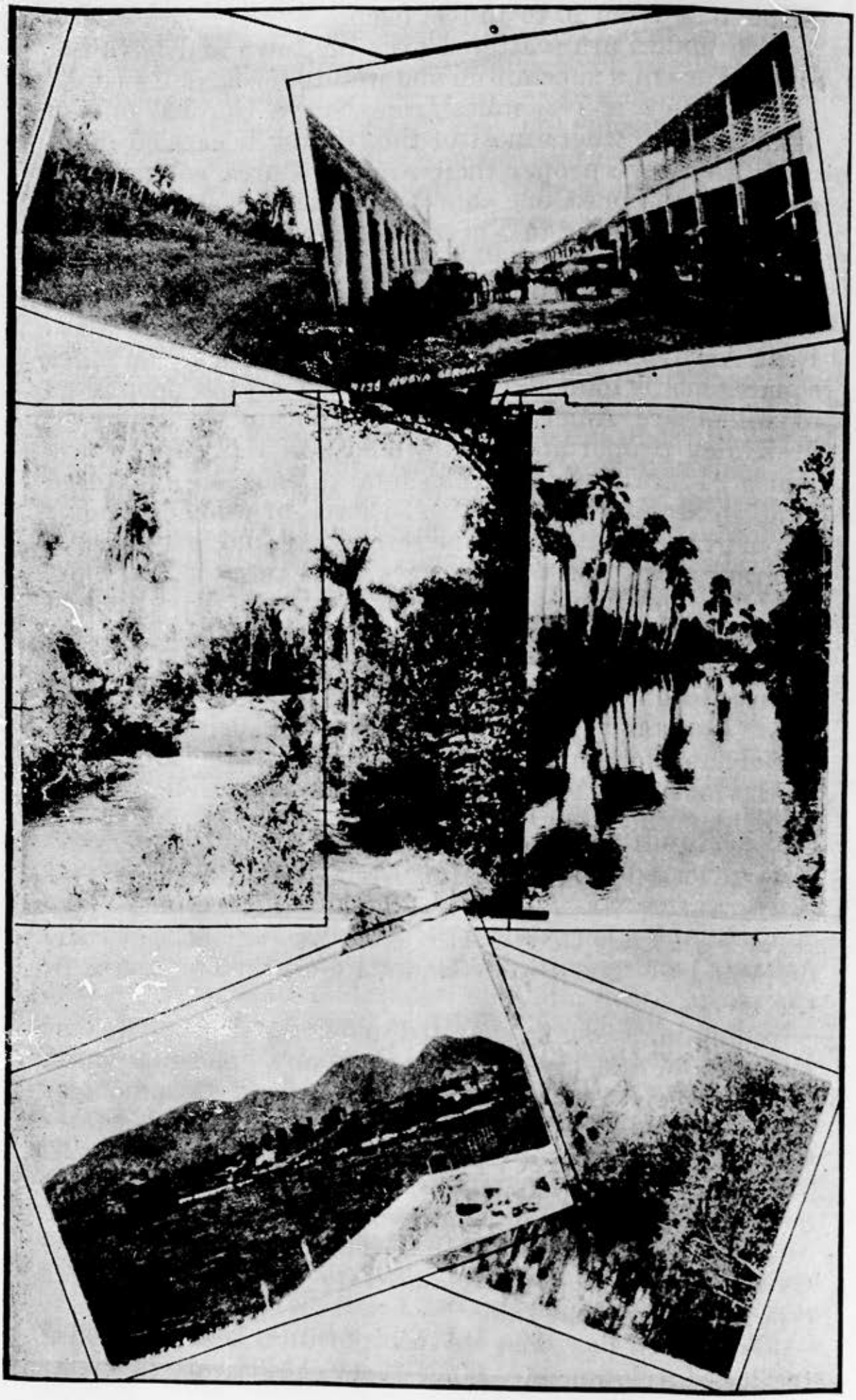
COLUMBIA PORT AND DISTRICT

LOCATION

SITUATED ONE MILE from the confluence of Rio del Mal Pais and Rio de Santa Fe on the north side of the river.

Columbia was incorporated under the title of "Isle of Pines Land and Development Company" and purchased (according to a statement on page nine of Document of Titles to Isle of Pines, published by the United States Government 1906) on August 4th, 1901 and contains 22,218 acres of land (Santa Rosalie estate). 100 acres and a lot in the town of Columbia were alloted to each of the original forty share holders. This statement was according to that book rendered to the United States government at that time.

This town has since its incorporation been successful in its development. Some very practical farmers,



Upper right.—Calle Martí. Lower left.—The Casas Range of Mountains By-road and River.

agriculturists and horticulturists were included in the original forty share-holders and the town has forged ahead in the payment of public debts, maintaining an American public school and all town improvements as a unit.

At the present time one of the most successful farmers on the Isle of Pines lives in Columbia. He has educated his children in the United States and through his practical knowledge of stock raising, vegetable growing and fruit culture, he has succeeded where others have failed, which invariably is the case in new countries in all parts of the world.

The town being so close to Nueva Gerona (only eight and one-half miles), that port is patronized for most of the supplies needed. Therefore the necessity for stores to any appreciable degree does not exist.

There is a wharf maintained on the Jucaro River below its confluence with the Mal Pais and the Santa Fe, known as Columbia wharf, at which the steamers making the port at Jucaro touch with passengers and freight. Many passengers embark and debark at this landing for steamers to and from Batabano, using automobile to and from Nueva Gerona.

The main calsada from this wharf to Nueva Gerona is a part of the Government highway, constructed during the term of the American government of intervention. This calsada has been kept up in good repair by the residents of Columbia and the Cuban government since that time. This highway runs through a pass of the Sierra de Cacallos and is a very picturesque ride. There is a turnpike from Columbia to Vivijagua Beach, near the junction of which on the main calsada, is an American cemetery.

Vivijagua, east of the Caballos (Reina Amalia) is a most beautiful small Beach. Playa de Flanencos has a high hill in the back ground, which nearly meets (on the northern extremity) the upper sands of the beach. There are two very attractive homes built on this Playa, which are show places for tourists visiting the Isle of Pines.

The beach between Pta. de la Vivijagua and Pts. del Columpo. especially the northern part, is used continually by the residents of the Isle of Pines, also by ships' crews when at anchor in these waters.

COLUMBIA DISTRICT proper has an area of 22,218 acres—the total population within this region

(1922) is 80,59 of whom are Americans who own 99 per cent of the land. 23 are under 21 years of age.

The total acreage (according to a survey made in 1921) in cultivated lands is 191 acres of which 42 acres are in grape fruit trees and 149 acres in egg plant, peppers, mangoes and avacadoes. The total valuation of this 191 acres of improved and cultivated land is $280,900.00.

CISTERNA HEIGHTS AND DISTRICT

LOCATION

LOCATED ON THE HIGHEST PLATEAU in the central part of the island, 350 feet above the sea and at the Springs, the source of Rios Los Nuevas, Luis and Cisterna, which flow north to the Caribbean Sea (the Springs being only 30 feet from the apex) is the watershed of the island, two miles north from Cerro de los Cristales, two miles northwest from Cerro Mal Pais and four miles north from the base of the Sierra de la Cañada. El Hatillo and Cerro Natividad are situated three miles on the southwest; San Francisco de las Piedras is three miles distant on the northeast. Los Almacigos boundary joins on the east; La Cañagua and La Cañada on the south; and Santa Barbara Heights adjoins on the northwest. Twelve miles from Nueva Gerona, eight miles to Santa Fe; eight miles to Santa Barbara; four miles to San Francisco Heights and eight miles to Los Indios.

The view from the Heights looking to the west and the south, especially the west, is probably the grandest sight on the Isle of Pines. One can see San Antonio, Los Indios and the Cayos in the blue waters beyond and from the summit of the Cañada the whole island and thirty miles across the Spanish Main, where the deep draft ships of today, as of yore, follow the sea lanes bound from New York and Habana to the Antilles and vica versa. A kaleidoscopic scene and a world panoramic view.

A voyage from New York, San Francisco or Boston to behold this scene in this land of enchantment would not be time thrown away, for there is no view just like this one from Cisterna Heights in the semi-tropics or the tropics of the Americas.

The view from Sierra de las Cristales, a sugar loaf which rises about 100 feet on the summit of Cisterna reveals the surrounding valleys and other hills of lesser height. The whole expanse is one mass of woodland, a dense forest as primeval as it was in the beginning.

Virgin, save a place here and there where the calsada was blazed through or where there is an occasional clearing for a house, a grove or a vegetable patch. Pine trees, hard wood trees, palms royal and cocoanut, form in their massiveness a huge green carpet.

Before the development of McKinley, Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Heights, or preceeding the settlement of San Francisco Heights, those districts were forests and the first settlers were scattered, neighbors being only two and three miles apart, but the density of those places was never so great as is that of Cisterna Heights.

From the summit (the water shed) the nearest house in all directions at present is about three miles. Making a line six miles long in each direction on the compass, a circle, with the watershed in the center, the circumference of which would be twenty four miles, is the area which might be termed Cisterna Heights.

There is a main calsada which runs nearly across the island from east to west, connecting Santa Fe with Los Indios, which passes over the Heights. This highway is 100 feet wide and was built several years ago by private interests. The bridges crossing the rivers and streams are constructed of wood and in some places these spans have been washed away or rotted from the want of repairs. When this road was made it was evidently the intention of the property owners to open up the District for settlement, which idea was later abandoned. The expense of cutting, clearing and making this calsada ran into thousands of dollars owing to the density of the forest of the trees are three feet through at the butt. There is a of the trees are three feet througt at the butt. There is a movement now on to repair the bridges, which no doubt will be done within the next year. It is also understood that this calsada will be the next highway to be worked by the Cuban government until it is finished as a first class calsada.

This district is the last to be colonized on the Isle of Pines. As a whole the lands are not exceeding fertile, yet there are some tracts along the rivers and branches which are as rich in fertility as is found on the island, but the poorest of these lands, well fertilized, will produce fruit trees and pineapples and the richer areas will raise corn and crops of vegetables. This district is ideal for the raising of turkeys and hens upon a large scale, also for squab breeding. Eggs are in great demand in Havana

(the Cubans are great huevo eaters). Thousands of crates of eggs are shipped to Havana and Cuba from the United States every year. Fresh huevos sell in the Cuban market at about five cents apiece, by the crate. The freight, via steamer, from the Isle of Pines to Habana is so slight as compared with freight from the States and not more than the freight from various parts of Cuba to Havana, that this industry offers attractions, especially for Cisterna Heights, where it is drier than any other part of the island. Dryness, as everybody knows, is benefical for foul raising.

For those interested along such lines of endeavor, and for the author, the artist and those retired, who are in search of a winter home within easy access of New York and the center of population of the United States (Indiana), or as far as that goes for a year round home from where a vacation might be annually enjoyed, there is no better place to locate than at Cisterna Heights.

For the sportsman in quest of fishing, the author believes that there are no better fishing grounds in southern waters than on the banks of St. Frances. These fishing banks are easy of access to Cisterna Heights. The main calsada leads direct to Los Indios River and docks, eight miles by auto; from there a boat may be taken across Siguanea Bay (a distance of only ten miles), thus eliminating a voyage of some forty miles around the entire island. On these banks may be seen fishing smacks from Havana. The local fish markets of that city are constantly supplied with fish caught off these banks. The catches are amberjack, king fish, mackerel, barracuda, green turtles and other large fish, including red snapper and pompano. Excepting the mackerel, red snapper and pompano, many of the fish weigh twenty and thirty pounds each and the turtles run up to 200 pounds (some of their shells being worth $100.00 each). They are caught by trolling with spoon hooks and also by still casting.

There is good game during the season in the woods around Cisterna Heights. Wild turkeys, quail and pigeons are plentiful. Saddle riding over the trails and through the pine forests afford excellent exercise, while mountain climbing in the saddle and on foot gives exhilaration to the body and inspiration to the mind in the scenes gained by reaching the highest peaks. A sunrise and sunset when seen from the hills will enchant even the most stoical.

There is good bathing and swimming to be had in the pure fresh cool waters of the Cisterna River—large pools are accessible within ten minutes walk of the heights.

The springs of Cisterna Heights contain soft, pure, crystal water, always cool and refreshing—their supply being unlimited. They bubble from the ground in great volume.

Cisterna Heights offers great advantages for a colony of well-to-do professional people and for sportsmen, where a club house may be erected, good golf links laid out and riding stables built; also for camps constructed after the plans and specifications of those in vogue in the Adirondacks—modern log camps, built of stone and cement—these materials preferable on account of forest fires. Beautifying such homes with tropical verdure—royal and cocoanut palm trees (which grow in great abundance among the pines on the heights) brush and trailing flowers, fruit trees and green swards.

An ideal place for an exclusive colony of people not dependent upon the lands for their sustenance; at the same time, as stated before, small fincas may be laid out to supply the markets of Havana, which may be made profitable.

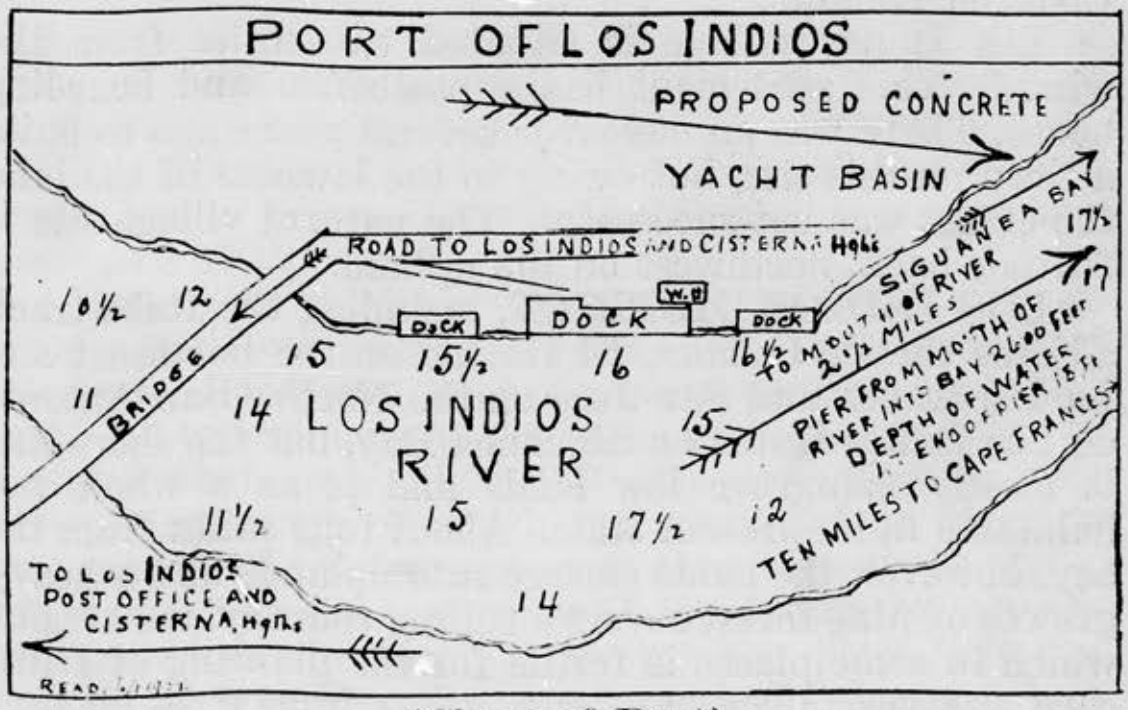
A mission furniture factory would no doubt prove profitable if started upon these Heights.

From a health point of view, there probably is no better sport on earth than on Cisterna Heights.

There are three families within three miles from the center of this water shed. One hundred per cent of the land in this entire area is owned by Americans. The landing at Los Indios is the natural port of the Cisterna Heights District.

Upper left—Columpo (The Rock of Gibraltar) from Vivijagua Beach.
Lower right—The Spanish Main.

LOS INDIOS DISTRICT



(Chart of Port)

LOCATION

LOS INDIOS IS LOCATED on the northwestern bank of the Rio de Los Indios, three miles from the Bar, the mouth of the river (Siguanea Bay). The water at the mouth of the river is nine feet in the Boca Chica. The distance across the Bay and until the end of the banks (100 fathoms soundings) are reached is twelve miles. The soundings in a channel to the 100 fathoms are from eighteen to twenty-four feet. During the fruit shipping season there are some steamers drawing not over eighteen feet, which ply direct between New York and the Lesser Antilles, that call at this port for freight.

The dock at Los Indios, at the bar of the river, has a pier built out from the mouth into the Bay 2,600 feet in length, at the end of which the water is eighteen feet deep.

The wharf at Los Indios (three miles up the river) is sixty feet in length and contains a warehouse. The water up the river is from 13 to 15 feet deep. There is kept at this dock a barge built from funds secured by public subscription. It is 90 feet long by 22 feet beam, has a sixty H. P. Fairbanks and Morse engine and draws five feet when loaded. Capacity 3,000 boxes of fruit. This barge is used to transport fruit and other freight to the end of the pier at the mouth of the River for direct transportation to New York. Freight per box of fruit $0.56.

This landing is the natural port for San Pedro and Cisterna Heights.

Los Indios village is situated two miles from the wharf. This settlement has a postoffice and boarding house. There was an endeavor several years ago to build a town on this site, but owing to the lowness of the land the effort was not successful. The natural village site is further back, northwest on the upland.

LOS INDIOS DISTRICT, including the Itabo tract, adjoins the La Cañada, El Hatillo on the northeast and La Esperanza and San Jose on the North. San Antonio de Los Indios fronts on Siguanea Bay, but the shore line is mostly mangrove low lands and is as a whole not habitable in its present state. About four miles from the bay, however, the lands emerge into uplands and a heavy growth of pine forest covers a rolling country, the area of which in some places is fertile for the planting of fruit, corn and vegetables.

The original Los Indios tract has an area of about six miles shore line to La Esperanza and extends to the El Hatillo tract five and one-half miles and to San Jose, three miles. The total population (within the original tract) 1922 is 140, 48 of whom are Americans who own 98 per cent of this land; 13 are under 21 years of age.

The total acreage in cultivated lands (according to a survey in 1921) is 209 acres, of which 132 are in grape fruit trees over seven years old and 38 acres in grape fruit trees from three to six years old. The total valuation of this 132 acres of cultivated land is $262.600.00.

It is estimated that the country northeast to El Hatillo may soon be developed. If so and a new town site is established Los Indios may become in time one of three important towns on the island.

SAN PEDO DISTRICT

LOCATION

SAN PEDRO is situated on the eastern bank of the San Pedro River about four miles from its mouth. The adjoining District is San Manuel de Las Tunas. Some years ago there was an endeavor to colonize this town. Considerable money was raised in the United States for the purpose. Expert horticulturists and agriculturists were brought from the states, also several managers were employed to lay out a town, erect buildings and construct a railroad to connect with the Siguanea River and the

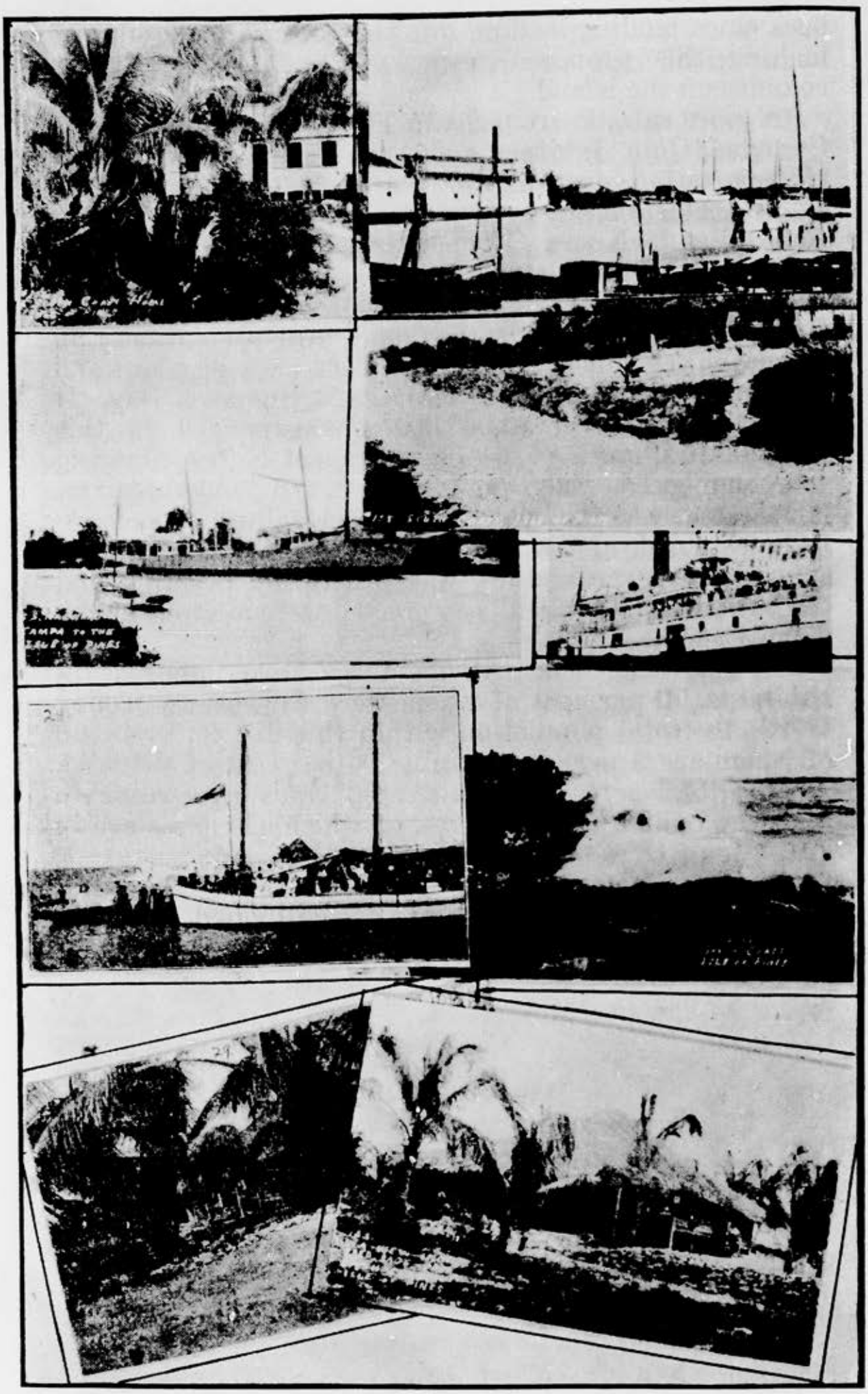
boca chica landing leading into the Bay, with the idea of making this proposed town independent from other colonies on the island.

A main calsada from Santa Fe through La Seiba, La Cunagua, Ohio, Whitney and Andorra was the means of transportation overland to Santa Fe, Jucaro, Nueva Gerona, a distance of twelve miles to Santa Fe and twenty four miles to Nueva Gerona. Isolated as it were from other parts of the island.

A battery of buildings was erected, including a hotel, five stores, fifteen residences (some quite pretentious) an American schoolhouse, a large modern packing plant and a railroad to terminus at the docks at Siguanea Bay. It is stated that over $1,000,000 was expended in this undertaking, much of which was spent before planting was commenced. Extravagance in carrying out the plans, it is stated, was the real cause of the failure to successfully establish the town. However the place, after a struggle of several years, was practically deserted and the buildings which had been erected were allowed to run down.

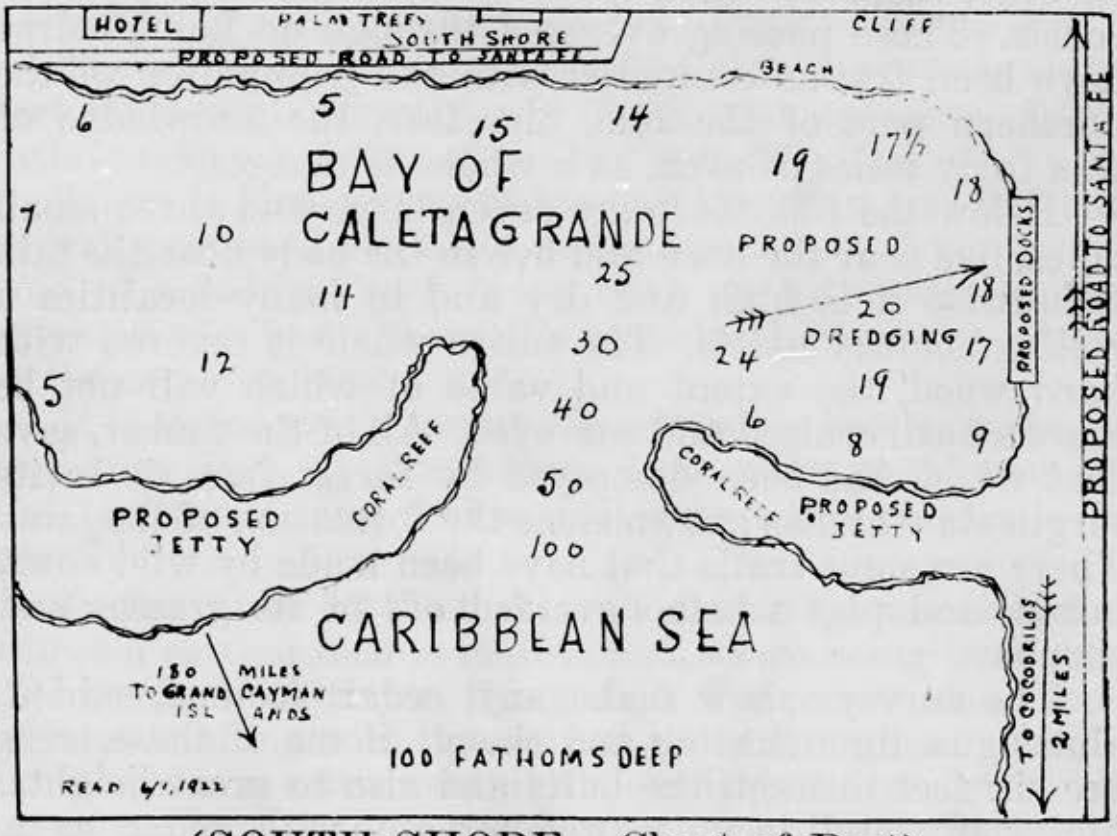
At one time this settlement had two hundred inhabitants, 70 per cent of whom were Americans. Today (1922) the total population within this district is 48, 10 of whom are Americans, owning 90 per cent of the land.

The total acreage of cultivated lands (according to a survey in 1921) is 470 acres, of which 416 acres are in grape fruit trees over 7 years old and 27 acres of grape fruit trees from three to six years old. The total valuation of this 470 acres of cultivated land is $449,300.00.



Upper left.—Caleta Largo Cocoanut Grove. Lower right.—Along the Shores Caleta Grande Bay.

CALETA GRANDE DISTRICT



(SOUTH SHORE.—Chart of Port).

LOCATION

THE PORT OF CALETA GRANDE is situated on the peninsula (South Shore) about ten mile from Cabo Frances (Cape Frances). This point extends northwest and is the tail of a whale shaped body of land, the mouth of which is Punta de Este. Is has on the north the waters of the Ensenda de la Siguanea (the Bay of Siguanea) with a shore line on the Bay of about twenty miles, and on the west, south and east the open Caribbean sea. There are several large lakes situated in the Siguanea de Lanier (north) the lowlands into which nine rivers empty; the source of these rivers being Cisterna Heights, La Cañada and La Cunagua, the southern side of the watershed of the island. The largest of these rivers empty into the Siguanea west of Punta de Piedras and two of them empty on the east; therefore, the eastern side of the pass is accessible through La Jagua, Calabaza and El Canal, to Santa Fe. This whale shaped land is 42 miles long by seven miles wide in the body—two and one miles wide on the tail.

Since the beginning of the human race on the northern part of the island, this whale shaped area has had but a scant population. The indians were somewhat in awe of it and the subsequent population north of its fins and

sword (Cienega de Lanier) has hesitated to venture on it, other than by boat, either around the east or west coasts. Those passing overland through de Las Piedras have been few as compared with the popupation of the northern part of the Isle, therefore, the knowledge of this forty miles of area, as a whole, is meager.

Below the fins there are seven large and three small lakes, five near the head and five in the body near the tail. Otherwise it is high and dry and in many localities a rolling country exists. The entire whale is covered with hard wood, the extent and value of which will not be known until cruised and surveyed. All of the timber, save that which has been destroyed by forest fires, is in its virgin state and as grown since the formation of the land. There are some trails that have been made by wild cows, horses and pigs which have fed off of its grasses and shrubs.

The surveys show mahogany, cedar, jocuma, sabicu, almasigus, lignum vitae and ebony. Some of these trees are six feet through the butts and rise to great heights. Mahogany and jocuma predominate, with cedar as a second in the number and size of the trees. Along the coast are thousands of cocoanut walks which are in great evidence.

The shores are what is known as "dog teeth" (coral rock), rough and jagged. The whole area is so entirely foreign to the northern part of the island it remindsone of passing out of a semi-tropical into a tropical country. One is impressed with the feeling of being in the vast land of the unknown. Mysterious as it all may seem, there is something that inspires one while riding along the trails between those massive hard wood trees. One also wonder why such a wealth of hardwood has not been cut and shipped to the markets of the northern countries for consumption, but we are told that men will not work in these forests.

At the head of the whale in the interior, on 30,000 acres, there are three Cuban companies operating charcoal plants. 50,000 acres in the body is owned by a northwesten syndicate and 40,000 acres of the tail by New York parties.

The port of CALETA GRANDE is a natural harbor, partly land locked by a crescent reef extending out from a point of the shore, which forms the western part of the Bay. The shores of the southern part form the balance

of the harbor. If a jetty were constructed on this reef (which could be done at a nominal cost) a deep water small harbor might be maintained, which could be connected by a road through Piedras Pass to Santa Fe.

The water at the entrance into Caleta Grande is sixty feet deep and directly off from the entrance fifty fathoms; in the center of the bay it is fifty feet.

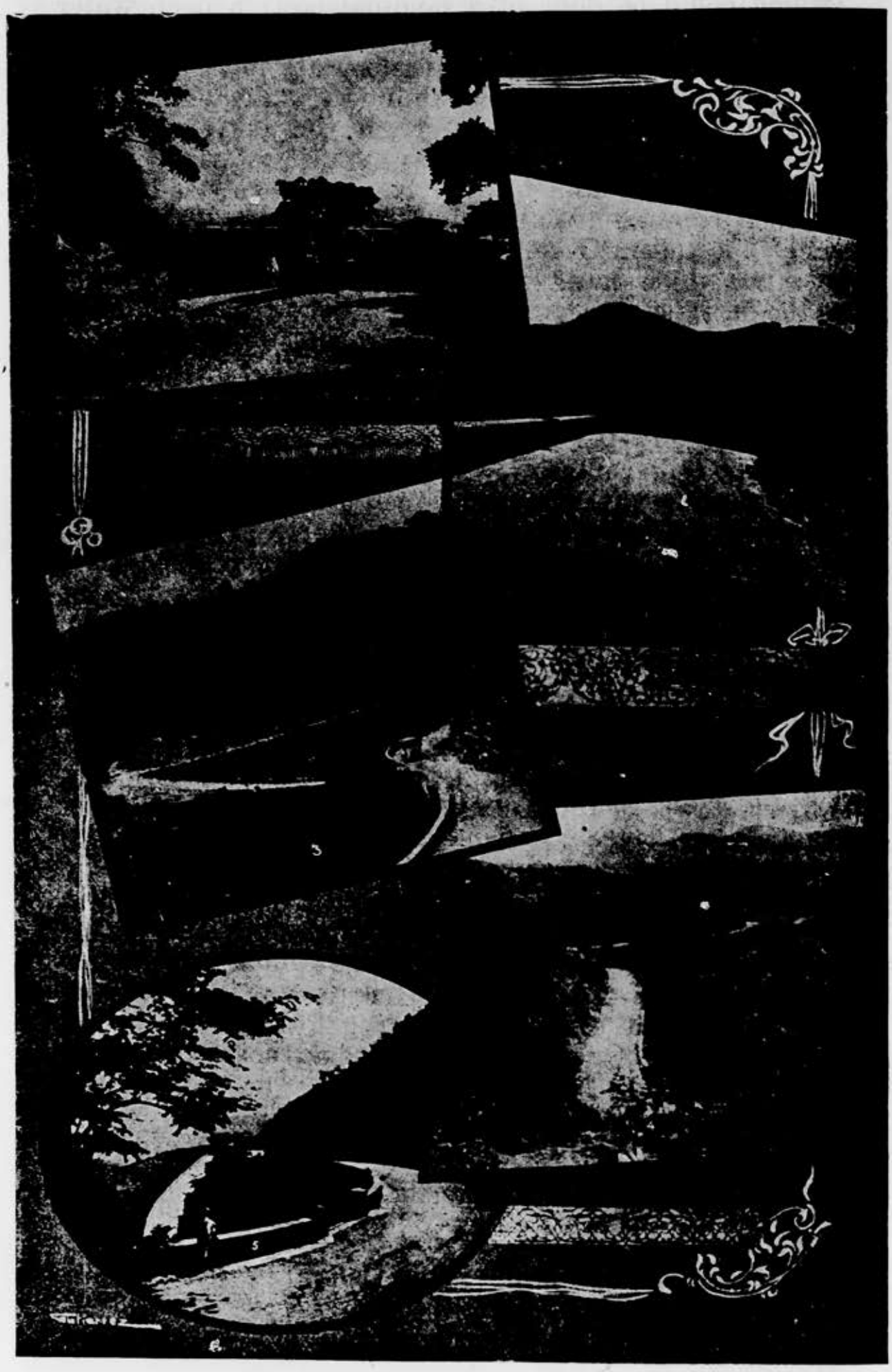
There is also a deep water bay larger in size but not as well protested at Caleta de Carapachibey. This bay is void of a natural reef, being open on both sides of the entrance which would entail a considerable cost for jetties as the entrance is very wide.

It is stated that a landing is accessible inside the keys, Siguanea Bay, at Buccarones four miles northwest of Caleta Grande, and that a trail across this peninsula is passible.

In the center of the tail is a hacienda known as Hato, where a cattle ranch is maintained, there being probably 200 heads of cattle on this range. There are also thou- of hogs running wild throughout the entire area.

There is a settlement at Caleta Grande consisting of about ten houses and a hotel. Also one at Caleta de Largo and another at Caleta de Inglis, four and five miles north of Caleta Grande. There is another settlment at Caleta Cocodrilos, three miles south of Caleta Grande, where an English speaking school is maintained. These villages are inhabited chiefly by Caymain islanders (British subjects) and in the four hamlets there are about one hundred and sixty English speaking people. The chief occupation of these inhabitants is fishing and turtle catching, dealing in turtle shells and raising bees from which they pack and ship the beeswax to the markets of the north. They also ship cargoes of coconuts to Havana.

Sportsmen while on fishing parties on the banks of St. Frances will find it interesting to visit the Caleta Grande District and those who crave adventure will find that the overland trip (in the saddle) from Santa Fe to Caleta Grande will furnish all the thrills that come to those who seek the exploration of wild and undeveloped lands. But either trip to the St. Frances banks or overland through Piedras Pass should not be undertaken without pilots and guides who are familiar with the waters and the trails leading around and over the island.



Highways along the Southwest Coast of Cuba

EARLY DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLE OF PINES

A description (in part) of the Isle of Pines, evidently written in 1898, is herein reprinted. It is anonymous there being no remarks in connection with it. Portions of it are evidently written from observations while other parts no doubt were copied from encyclopedias. However, it will convey to the reader the location, boundaries, area, physical features, rivers and streams, springs, climate, bays and harbors, roads and trails, towns, villages and haciendas, resources, vegetable products, minerals, forest industries, fish and cattle, and Civil Government, as they appeared to that writer in 1898.

The write-up (in part) by C. Willard Hayes, U. S. Geological Survey, follows the description. The full text of the latter may be read from pages 99 to 101, "Adjustment of Title to Isle of Pines".

The Isle of Pines is situated off the South Coast of the Western Part of Cuba (a part of the Havana Province of Cuba), between latitude 21° 24' 40'' and 21° 56' North and longitude 82° 30' and 83° West. Its extreme Northwest point (de los Barcos) is 30 nautical miles of 34½ statute miles southeast of Punta de Carraguao (Pinar del Río) the nearest land of Cuba.

This Island lies 730 miles (statute) across the Caribbean Sea, north of Greytown entrance to the Nicaragua Canal: 850 miles north by west of Colon, entrance to the Panama Canal; 230 miles east of the nearest coast of Yucatan, Mexico, and 370 miles Northwest of Jamaica. It is protected from approach on the North by the coast of Cuba, and from all sides on the Caribbean Sea by the shallow channels and innumerable keys.

It is 34 miles from North to South and 43 miles from East to West on a line with Point Frances. Its area is 986 square miles, or 631,040 acres, including the Cienaga de Lanier, but 99 miles less than the land superfices of the State of Rhode Island, and within 264 square miles of its total of land and water. It is nearly equal in size to the combined area of the 1,360 other isles, inlets and keys which encircle Cuba.

The island has a geological relation to the general chain of insular mainlands of the Antilles and is unlike the numerous low coral and sand formations known as keys and mangrove swamps scattered in such profusión off the coast. In general the surface is a platean of 50 to 100 feet above sea level, broken by ridges of hills or cliffs that project abruptly above the general surface.

The two mountain ridges at the northern end reach an elevation of about 1,500 feet, and are composed of lime stone and marble. The other ridges in the center are much lower, less precipitous, and formed of gray sandstone, red rock, and gravel, containing iron.

The most remarkable summits are the Sierra de la Cañada, 1,600 feet high, with precipices 150 feet; Daguila, 1,500 feet high, from the summit of which may be had a view of the entire island; Sierra de Caballos, 1,074 feet high: Mount Casas, about 2 miles from the latter, composed of beautiful marbles of various colors, and Mount Cristales of moderate height, its sides being covered abundantly with green rock crystals.

The island has a number of rivers of excellent water, the more important of which emptying on the north coast are the Nuevas, composed of several mountain tributaries, 5 to 10 feet deep, and navigable 4 or 5 miles; the Sierra de Casas, also composed of several mountain branches, near the mouth of which Nueva Gerona is situated, and accessible by vessels drawing 5 feet. On the northeast coast is the Santa Fe, formed of many streams, on the main one of which, navigable for small craft, the town of the same name is situated.

The drainage of the island is represented by the following rivers and streams:

BERNARDINO.—A rivulet tributary to the Santa Fe on the South.

CALLEJON, RIO DEL.—Near the west coast; rises in the Sierra San Jose; flows north by east past Santa Teresa and La Nuevas. Of the stream of the latter name it is the west tributary.

CASAS, RIO DE SIERRA.—Rises in the highlands of the north near Santa Rosalia. It flows north, passes Nueva Gerona, the capital, to which point it is navigable for the steamer which plies between the island and Batabano on the Cuban coast, and enters the sea about the center of the north coast of the island between Fuera and Barcos points.

CAYAMAS.—A rivulet which, rising east of Asiento de Santa Fe and flowing northeast, is lost in the lagoons near the coast south of the mouth of the Santa Fe.

CISTERNA.—The larger and western of the many tributaries of the Las Nuevas, rising in the Sierra de la Cañana in the southwest of the island.

GRANDE.—A small stream rising south of Sierra Seiba and emptying into the Cienaga on the south.

GUAYBO.—Rises in the vicinity of San Juan on the east, and flowing northeast empties into the sea south of Potrero Point, east coast.

INDIOS, RIO DE LOS.—Rises in the Sierra de la Cañada, flows west past San Antonio, and empties into Siguanea Bay on its northeast shore, southeast of Majagua Point.

ITABO.—A small stream emptying on the east shore of Siguanea Bay.

JAGUA, RIO DE LA.—Rises on the south watershed of the Sierra de la Seiba, flows southeast into the Cienaga on the east between the Cayo de Piedras and Boca de la Cienaga.

MAL PAIS.—Rises on the east slopes of the same summit as the Nuevas and, flowing northeast, enters the Santa Fe at Jucaro, to which point the main stream is navigable.

MEDIO, RIO DEL.—A tributary of the Rio de las Nuevas, entering that stream on its east shore near its mouth on the north coast.

NUEVAS, RIO DE LAS.—The largest river on the island, rising in the same central summits which feed the Rio Mal Pais, Santa Fe, and Jagua. It receives its larger tributaries, Cisterna, Callejon on the west, and Medio on the east, the latter near its mouth on the north coast east of point de los Barcos.

SAN PEDRO.—Rises in the hills of that name near the southwest center and empties into the Boca de la Cienaga, in the northeast angle of Siguanea Bay.

SANTA FE.—One of the most important streams, but not the largest, with many small tributaries; it rises about the center of the island and, flowing northeast, enters the bight between points Fuera and Potrero. On the main stream is situated the town of the same name and important thermal springs. It is also navigable to Jucaro.

SANTIAGO.—Rises between the Cerros del Aji and La Seiba and flows southeast, emptying into the Cienaga on the southeast near the Boca de la Cienaga.

SIGUANEA, RIO DE LA.—Rises on the southern declivities of Sierra de la Canada and, flowing south, empties into the Cienaga mouth in the northeast angle of Siguanea Bay.

TINAS, ARROYA DE LAS.—A rivulet rising south of hill of del Monte and empties into the Cienaga on the west.

The mineral springs, for which the island has a world-wide reputation, judged from official and individual certification as to curative properties and results of the waters, are remarkable, especially in pulmonary, rheumatic and throat affections.

A chemical analysis shows the water to be impregnated with oxygen and carbonic-acid gases, coloride of sodium, sulphate of lime, carbonate of lime, iron, magnesia chloride of calcium, nitrate of lime, silex and extractic organic matter. Temperature of water 82° F. The regimen of treatment is two baths of a quarter of an hour each and four glasses, taken inwardly, per day. The baths are erected over the springs. The testimonials of the beneficial effects of bathing and drinking are numerous, among others being a case of bronchial trouble requiring cuastic treatment of the throat which was cured in ten days and without a recurrence of the

complaint. It is claimed that the waters rival Saratoga in the United States.

The climate is described as "delicious, the air pure and balmy and, notwithstanding the island being surrounded by water, is considered dry. The winds coming from the sea and passing over the pine forests are gentle and invigorating". The year is divided into two seasons. During the wet (lluviosa), or summer, the rains begin early in June and last until October, seldom more than two hours in the afternoon, and are accompanied by thunder and lightning. The greatest rainfall is in May, June and July, although there is no month entirely free from rain. During this wet season about two-thirds of the precipitation of the year is received. The day is usually clear until 10 A. M., after which it is showery until night. The nights are clear. The hottest hours are from 10 to 12 a. m. About 2:30 p. m. the breeze (la virazon) blowing in from the sea moderates the temperature. At night the copious dews contribute to the luxuriance of vegetation.

The dry season (seca), or winter, extends from October to June, with occasional visitations from November to February of los nortes (cold winds blowing from the north) lasting about forty-eight hours, when the temperature falls to 50, but is not as uncomfortable as the March winds in the States. This season is not entirely without precipitation, the days of rain numbering about one-third of the wet season. The annual rainfall ranges from 50 to 52 inches, or less than on the Gulf coast of the States. The average rainy days is 10 in the month, and the average humidity for the year 75 per cent.

Cape Frances, at the extreme point of a rocky crescent-shape peninsula extending into the ocean, forms the spacious bay and anchorage of Siguanea on the southwest. A small key connected with the point is the home of numbers of enormous corocodiles (rhombifer Bibron) known under the Cuban name "caiman". On the shores of the point are found great quantities of rare and beautiful shells and coral.

From this anchorage vessels drawing 20 feet can pass northward around the island as far as Nueva Gerona inside the keys that lie some 6 miles off the coast. From Frances to Indian Point to the northeast it is 16 miles and trends inland 18 miles. The bay has a depth from 1¾ fathoms (10½ feet) to 5½ fathoms (33 feet). The ship channel referred to is entirely protected from the seaward side of the Indian keys.

Estero del Pino is an indentation in the extreme projection about the center western coast of the Isle of Pines, and is fed by a small stream which rises in the vicinity of San Jose, a village on tre western slope of the sierra of the same name, and at the terminus of the

trail extending from Nueva Gerona west to Santa Teresa and Las Nuevas, thence SSW. to San Jose. From this point a road is projected along the western and southwestern base of Sierra de San Jose to Canada, in the sierra of that name, an important road center in the southwestern part of the island.

The only two landings—Nueva Gerona, on the Rio Sierra de Casas and Jucaro, on the Rio Santa Fe—are accessible to vessels drawing 5 feet of water, owing to the shallowness of the bars at the river mouth.

The directions referring to the anchorage of Puerto Frances are intended for sailing vessels and based upon the idea that such vessels may have to get under way suddenly with an unfavorable wind. For other vessels a better anchorage is found in the bight north of Point Pedernales with that point bearing S. 3° W. true and in from 5 to 9 fathoms of water. This anchorage has been repeatedly occupied by United States vessels and found very satisfactory, the holding ground being found good all over this part of the bight.

In the northeastern part of the cove is a small anchorage, marked by stakes, where fishing vessels find good shelter in 8 feet of water.

The tides are reported to have a range of from 2 to 2½ feet.

About 3 miles to the eastward of Carapachivey is another cove, closed by a chain of rocks, visible some distance off shore.

A recent hydrographic examination shows that the line of reefs which extends along the whole southern border of the Jardines and Jardinillos makes a pronounced dip to the southward. In this longitude the reef is from 2 to 3 miles farther off the cays than is indicated on existing charts. The cays are themselves about 3 miles farther south than charted.

The reef as it recedes on either side of this section has rather more water and breaks less conspicuously so that a vessel standing in from the southward upon this most advanced point of the reef, or observing it from that side, seems to have to do with an isolated reef.

A large number of lines of soundings were run over an area some 10 miles square extending, east, west and south of this point. There is no other shoal in the vicinity.

The bank all along this part of the reef lies from ½ to ¾ mile off the breakers, soundings beginning in 15 and 17 fathoms at the edge of the bank. The breakers can be plainly seen at a distance of several miles.

Several roads or trails extend to all parts of the island, beginning at Nueva Gerona. One, south to Santa Fe, and thence continuing across the eastern end of Cienaga Lagoon, communicates with the south coast at Punta Brava; another from Nueva Gerona, and

still another from Santa Fe, unite and terminate on the northeastern shore of Siguanea Bay. From these main lines branch roads or trails extend to the villages of the interior.

The Sierra de los Cristales, or Crystal Hill (Cisterna Heights) is an elevated summit about the center of the island, 12 miles from Santa Fe and is reached over a good road through a wild but picturesque country alternating between beautiful meadows and pine forests. From its summit may be seen Nueva Gerona to the north, the Sierras Daquilla and de la Cañada screening the great east and west, and over intervening hills and valleys the blue ocean stretching towards the Spanish Main of old.

The inhabitants of the island are Spanish and colored, and exhibit in their intercourse with strangers a dignified and kindly spirit. For many years the Isle of Pines was a penal colony for Cuban revolutionists. The language is Spanish.

NUEVA GERONA (New Gerona). This town, the capital, and second town in size, lies on the left bank of the Sierra de las Casas River, 2 miles above its mouth, on the north coast. It is advantageously situated on a picturesque plateau, between the Caballos and Casas mountains, at the base of the latter, about 30 feet above the sea and the swamps at the mouth of the river. It is well drained and, exposed to the constant breeze from the sea, free from malarial influence. Its water comes from a magnesian spring, said to be very beneficial in cases of stomach trouble, and baths have been built into which water from the same spring is conducted. The town has an American hotel, an ice plant and telephone connection with Santa Fe, and a projected extension to Jucaro.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

TOBACCO.—Of this staple the island exported in 1899 about 5,000 bales (of 100 pounds each). In 1900 the product was less, as the workers who had come from Cuba to escape the war, returned to their old homes, where the reputation of the leaf, if not its actual superiority, gives the laborer who cultivates on shares a larger return for his work. Tobacco from this island sells in Habana at the highest market rates. The cultivation of sugar in 1900 was confined to a single estate.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

COFFEE.—Coffee has so far been raised only for experiment, but the quality seems to be fair, and with cultivators who understand the work good results might be obtained. Manga (answering as potato) is grown without irrigation and yields well, fine quality.

Sugar Cane at present raised in the island is for home use only; the juice is extracted by a crude wooden mill and boiled down in a large open kettle, making a dark, coarse sugar unfit for export.

Yuca (used for starch) grows without irrigation and yields well.

The Indian Corn (maize) also flourishes.

About 112 estates on the island are mostly devoted to tobacco raising. Of some products two crops are grown.
numbers. The wild fruits and seeds furnishing abundant food. At the close of 1899 there were 4,164 horned cattle, 1,231 horses, 144 mules, and 3,396 hogs and goats.

MINERALS

The quality of the marble is reported by experts to be suitable for the finest statuary, the color being the purest white. Other varities of different hues are suitable for ornamentation and art, as they take on an excellent polish. The stone is free from cracks and will furnish slabs of any size, the deposits varying from 5 to 25 feet in thickness. They are also situated to meet all requirements of convenient and economical transportation to points of shipment on the coast.

A good quality of brick clay is found in the island. At New Gerona are the ruins of an extensive brickyard whence brick, flooring, tiles and roofing tiles were formerly shipped to Habana. Silver and iron are also reported.
without trees, easy to work, and which increases in width for some

FORESTS

In the forests of this promising little isle of the Antilles are found extensive groves of the Oreodoxa regio (royal palm) and twenty-six other varities of the same numerous family—the mahogany, lignum-vitae, coco wood, from which reed instruments are made; cedrela odorata, used in the manufacture of cigar boxes and the lining of cabinet woods; also producing an aromatic oil distilled from its wood; and fustic or logwood, a dyestuff the product of cholophora, known as yellow or Cuba wood or old fustic.

Reclus in his "Universal Geography" Volume XVII, says:

In the southern side of the island are found all the mahogany and most of the other valuable woods on the island.

"all the large trees of the Mexican coast, so remarkable for their majestic growth, reappear on the Cuba seaboard. Over thirty species of palms are here met in association with trees such as the pine, which would seem so characteristic of the temperate zone and which gives its name to the "Pinos" Island, where it is found intermingled with palms and mahogany".

The indigenous trees of the Tropics are found side by side with the wild pine from which the island takes its name.

PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE ISLE OF PINES

The interior plain is covered for the most part with fine quartz

A salt deposit 1,472 feet long lies near Salinas Point. From this to the third Salinas Point the land forms large clean salt pits, distance.

gravel. The smaller pebbles, from ⅛ to ¾ inch in diameter are well rounded and often highly polished. The larger pebbles are more angular with increasing size, and those over two inches in diameter have their angles scarcely rounded at all. The gravel is everywhere deep red or black and the iron and manganese which produce the color have not only stained the surface of the pebbles, but have penetrated entirely through, often giving them a metalic luster. In addition to coloring the pebbles, the iron has in many places cemented them into large masses of conglomerate.

So far as observed this interior plain is everywhere underlain by highly crystalline mica schists. The foliation of the schist strikes nearly north and south and has a vertical or steep easterly dip. Its surface is always deeply weathered, except where streams have cut down and exposed the fresh rock in their channels.

The soil covering this interior plain varies from barren red gravel to dark-gray sandy loam. The former covers the swells, while the latter is found in the intervening depressions. Sometimes there is a layer of gravel beneath a few inches of sandy loam at the surface, a condition which exercises an important influence on the agricultural value of the land. * * *

The Sierras de las Casas, los Caballos and Pequena are three parallel ridges in the northern part of the island, about 2½ or 3 miles apart, and trending nearly due north and south. Nueva Gerona lies about midway between the two first named. The highest points in these ridges are between 1,000 and 1,200 feet. They are composed of marble in massive beds dipping steeply toward the east. This marble formation is estimated to be at least 2,000 feet in thickness, and the three parallel ridges are probably formed by faulted blocks and contain the same beds. The form of these ridges is determined by the structure. They have smooth though steep slopes on the eastern sides, the slopes generally corresponding with the dip of the marble beds and extremely rugged, often precipitous, slopes on the western sides where the edges of the beds outcrop. These ridges are almost entirely devoid of soil and sustain only a scanty vegetation, some trees and bushes maintaining a precarious foothold in the crevices of the rocks.

The Cerro de la Daguilla is an elongated cone about 10 miles south of Santa Fe. It is composed of dark-green hornblend schist, evidently an altered igneous rock. It differs completely from the marble monadnocks in the northern part of the island. Its slopes are generally smooth, though very steep, and covered with sufficient soil to sustain a dense growth of bushes and small trees or a thick covering of grass. The Sierras de la Cañada, de San Pedro, del Norte and de la Seiba, judging from their forms, are probably composed of rocks similar to those in La Daguilla.

CHAPTER IX

NATIVE FRUITS, FLOWERS AND BIRDS

THE CULTIVATED and wild fruits are celebrated for their quality and grow abundantly, as follows:

AGUACATE (alligator pear), one of the most popular fruits in the Antilles, pear shaped, of green or purple, and often weighs as high as 2 pounds. On account of the pulp being firm and marrow like it is also known as vegetable marrow or midshipman's butter. A very good oil for soap comes from its seed. The tree is an evergreen about 25 or 30 feet high.

BANANA (platano).—Many varities of this well-known fruit exists and take the place of bread in all country families, being eaten raw or cooked in many different ways.

CAIMITO.—Some are purple on the outside and others dark green. Inside it has milky fibrous meat, quite sweet and starchy, and a number of round black seeds. It grows on a tree.

CHIRIMOYA (cherimoyer, or custard apple).—A heart shaped fruit, quite sweet, with a slightly acid taste and very refreshing. Is has a scaly exterior and contains numerous seeds buried in a pulp. It is sometimes known as a bullock's heart, on account of its size and shape. It grows on trees about 25 or 30 feet high.

COCOANUT (cocoa).—Fruits in bunches of from 12 to 20 on a tree from 60 to 90 feet high. The nut when fresh contains nearly 1 quart of milk, very much esteemed by the natives as a refreshment. The thick rind or husk surrounding the nut is used in making cordage, matting, brushes, bags, etc. A valuable oil is obtained from the nut which is well known to commerce.

FIGS (Higos) of all kinds grow luxuriantly.

GRANADILLA.—A fruit grown on a vine which also bears the passion flower. It is generally as large as a child's head. It is used in making refreshments and desserts. The meat is glutinous and contains many small seeds.

GUANABANA.—A large fruit about the size of a muskmelon with many seeds and fibrous meat having a delicate flavor. Used for making refreshments, ices and preserves. Also eaten in its natural state.

GUAVA.—A black, globose, pulpy fruit with an agreeable acid flavor used in making jelly, marmalade,

etc. It is largely cultivated in tropical countries, there being two varities, the red or apple-shaped and the white or pear shaped.

LIMA.—Something like a lime, and has the flavor of the grape.

LIME (limon) or citrus, resembling a lemon, but smaller; the product of the citrus limelta tree. The juice is used in cooling beverages in the Tropics, and is especially in demand in summer in higher latitudes. It is also boiled and used in fevers.

MAMMEE—SAPOTA—a tree that yields a fruit the juice of which resembles marmalade. It is known locally as the "mamey colorado".

MAMONCILLO grows in clusters; it is a species of plum, tart and has one fibrous pit.

MANGO.—A fruit shaped somewhat like a pear, but attached to the tree by the larger end. The meat is fibrous and clings to the seed the same as happens with a clinstone peach. It is generally eaten in its natural state, but when green is sometimes boiled as a vegetable. Its flavor, when ripe, is a combination of apricot and pineapple. There are several varities of this fruit. The tree is 30 to 35 feet high.

MARANON.—Similar to a persimon, heartshaped, and has a heart shaped seed on the outside which is roasted and eaten as a chesnut.

ORANGES AND GRAPE FRUIT.—This fruit of commerce in fine varities grows abundantly in the island.

PAPAYA (paw-paw).—About 10 inches long, commonly of an oblong form, ribbed, and having a thick, fleshy rind. It is eaten raw, or when green is boiled as a vegetable and is also pickled. The tree is about 20 feet high and has large leaves. Meat boiled with a small portion of the leaf is made tender, or this can be done by simply hanging the meat among the leaves. The seeds are used as a vermifuge.

PINEAPPLE (pina).—Several varities of this fruit grow in the island and with proper cultivation may be a valuable product.

SAPODILLO (plum).—Small brown fruit with a black seed like a watermelon, and juice which disappears with incipient decay, when the fruit becomes very sugary.

The fruits grown in the brown, sandy soils of the Isle of Pines are probably more juicy and delicious in flavor than the fruits grown in the heavier and darker soils of

Cuba. The climate of the Isle of Pines being drier than Cuba aids in producing the most palatable fruit.

It is indeed a pleasure (especially to those who love delicacies) to go over the island and pick the fruit (which is in abundance) and eat it while journeying over the island. There are fruit trees, even in the dense forests, the seeds of which must have been planted by the hand of man or carried there by birds.

The flowers of all the tropics and semi-tropics flourish in the soil and climate of this island—many of the varities bloom almost continuously throughout the year. Their fragrance fills the air with perfume and the bright colors attract the eye, in many places being visible for a mile, or even a great distance.

The flowers growing in the greatest abundance on the island are:

Allamanda (yellow blossoms); Bougainvillea: Achillea (white); Centaurea; Hibiscus; Jessamine; Thunbergia; Royal poinciana; roses and zenias.

The air all over this enchanted Isle is ever full of the songs of the birds—they are more in evidence during the mornings and evenings than in the middle of the day, as is usually the case in most countries.

The native birds are computed at one hundred and five varities among the commoner ones being the thrush, humming bird, cuckoo, wood doves, quails and parrots.

The birds of the Isle of Pines are published in a book edited by W. E. Clyde Todd of the Carnegie Museum, fully illustrated.

The flora of the island has also been described in detail by one of the staff of the Smithsonian Institute.

Those who do not care to purchase the books above referred to relative to the birds and flowers may receive full information by writing to the presidents of the following clubs: Carnation Club; Hibiscus Club; Woman's Economic Club, Isle of Pines, W. I.

Types of the Island Children.

CHAPTER X

THE PROBABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND IN 1925.—OTHER DEVELOPMENT.

LOOKING BACK to the Fall of 1922 (three years from 1925, the beginning of a new era on the Isle of Pines) the probable development of the island will include many changes. Plans now contemplated will no doubt be carried to successful culminations, including a new pier of concrete at Nueva Gerona, extending from Columpo Point to deep water; a new town built on the uplands of Los Indios and the completion of the Government calsada from there to Santa Fe and Nueva Gerona; a new concrete pier extending from the mouth of the Los Indios River, establishing coast wise shipping with the large steamship lines plying direct between New York and the Antilles; the completion of a main calsada from Santa Fe to Caleta Grande and the beginning of the development of that deep sea port; the construction of a crescent jetty at Caleta Grande and the blasting of rock along those shores for docks, thus affording the berthing of deep sea vessels (drawing over 30 feet of water) plying between New York, Havana and the deep sea ports of the West Indian archipelago.

The extension of the telephone system to the South Shore; the installation of a trolley system from Santa Fe through Nueva Gerona to Santa Barbara; the establishment of lighthouses at Nueva Gerona, Los Indios, Caleta Grande, Cayos de los Ingleses and the installation of a wireless telephone system connecting with Havana and the United States .

The introduction of intensive farming including extensive vegetable development:

The development of a large mining district and the employment of hundreds of miners:

The erection of an observation tower at "Spy Glass" on the summit of the Cañada:

The establishment of large hardwood furniture factories; extensive development of marble quarries and works; the beginning of a dry dock and shipbuilding plant, a new ice and electric light plant at Nueva Gerona:

$500,000 annual net output of citrus fruits:

The erection of 250 new stone and concrete residences which at a moderate cost may be equipped with devices for supplying electricity, water and ice:

The introduction of a water and sewerage system for Nueva Gerona:

The establishment of a pottery and brick plant:

The construction of an open air sanitarium:

The construction of a plant for the manufacture of glass:

The introduction of a fast express boat line with Cuba:

The establishment of a sea plane service between Havana and the island:

Organization of golf, tennis, rod and gun and yacht clubs.

Logical engineering undertakings have been carried on in all the new cities and districts of the United States, especially in California, Florida and Texas. All of the rapidly growing counties of those states are nearly the size of the Isle of Pines, therefore, the area of the island may be compared with that of a larger county in one of the states.

The development of Los Angeles, Houston and Miami —cities near water transportation—have during the past fifteen years been phenomonal. Miami at the close of the Spanish-American War (1898) was a swamp in the wilderness, and those soldiers of the war who were encamped there, or the early homeseekers of Florida, never anticipated the establishment of a village of 200 people along Biscayne Bay, or on the banks of Miami River, but a few men followed an idea used in California and Texas, which was the organization of a Rod and Gun Club to attract the angler.

Florida received her millions through the publicity instigated by a newspaper man of New York, who stopped on the East Coast for fishing, as he was returning from Cuba to Washington. The fishing among the keys south of Biscayne Bay he considered lively enough to attract Northen sportsmen. Therefore, he wrote a story for one of the New York publications and furnished kodak pictures. The magazine which published his illustrated article was read by those men—among them were several millionaires. Finally that newspaper man who wrote the story was located by one of Mr. Flagler's friends and he was persuaded to guide him into the waters where the wonderful fishing he described existed. He was satisfied with his catches and so informed his friends. That was the beginning of Miami and after that the sportsmen went there. Yachts belonging to members of yacht clubs

in nearly every northern port on the Atlantic and in the Great Lakes made cruises to Biscayne Bay.

The yachtsmen going to Florida were first housed in hotels; they also lived aboard their craft and the habit of going there had been formed. The Angler's Club grew in membership and so did the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club. Flagler built a large hotel which added to the attractions. One day it was suggested that a newspaper be started to spread the news of the catches and the life in those waters, which was done, and a first class paper was established in what was then a "back woods" settlement. The anglers backed the paper and employed the news paper man who wrote the fishing story for the New York magazine as the editor.

There was a man who came in and constructed a building and started a ship chandlery and yacht supply store. The sportsmen backed a marine way and yacht yard for the repair and care of yachts, to be located on the Miami River, and a northern yacht builder was transported to take charge of this first industry at Miami. From the event of the marine ways and yacht yard Miami commenced to grow. The newspaper was a first class boosting medium; sportsmen commenced to buy land along the bay and the river; central property was bought by them; lots were purchased along the water front for $50.00 each (some of these lots sold two years ago—1920—for $200,000 each). The sportsmen have made Miami.

Miami City and Miami Beach now have a winter population of 150,000 people and a permanent citizenship of 50,000. There are many winter homes there costing over $500,000 each, and extensive orange and grape fruit groves have been started by men of wealth, but the present values are very high and the citrus fruit groves are over two months later than those located on the Isle of Pines.

The natural advantages for sportsmen's headquarters on the Isle of Pines are great—a new city may be started on the uplands within easy access of the Los Indios River and up that River a marine ways and yacht yard could be established.

The fishing on the banks of Cape Frances is much better than now exists among the keys of South Florida.

In the Los Indios River there should be established a cement yacht basin; also docks at which express high power motor boats may berth and a landing for sea planes maintained. Such an undertaking would entail the

expenditure of considerable money, but if there were a certain number of wealthy men interested in the fishing on the St. Frances bank and along the waters of the South Shore and the establishment of a sportsmen's colony on the uplands east of Los Indios, such a colony might be started which would redound in lasting benefits to the island as a whole.

Whether or not the predictions in the foregoing chapter are realized, the fact remains that the Isle of Pines on account of its wonderful climate and the health giving qualities of its springs, not to mention the great opportunities for reaping large returns from the citrus fruit, vegetable, fowls and other industries of the island, will in the future be the mecca for thousands of Americans and Britishers who desire to live under propitious conditions.

For the sportsman wishing a winter play ground, there probably is no area in the southern waters adjacent to the United States offering greater inducements. If a Plant of hotel and steamship fame; a Lipton of tea and yachting notoriety or a Mum of vineyard and race horse publicity should appear on the Isle of Pines in the future, there no doubt would be created there the greatest "Sportsmen's Paradise" yet developed anywhere in the Eastern or Western hemispheres.

"THE SPANISH AND AMERICAN FLORIDA" IS AN INTERESTING BOOK TO THOSE WHO WOULD CARE TO KNOW THE DOINGS OF THE SPANISH CONQUERERS IN OPPOSITION TO THE INDIANS, THE BRITONS AND THE AMERICANS IN FLORIDA.—IT IS ILLUSTRATED.

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CHAPTER XII

WHO'S WHO IN THE ISLE OF PINES (APPENDIX)

Complying with the requests of many persons writing the author inquiring about "Who's Who" on the Isle of Pines, this Chapter is herewith appended. There are numbers of persons living in the Isle of Pines not appearing in this Chapter who should appear, but the author overtaxed in his work, was unable to secure the data necessary for publication.

RAMON LLORCA Y SOTO. Alcalde (Mayor of the Isle of Pines). Residence Nueva Gerona. Born Isle of Pines, July 27th, 1886. Son of Ramon Llorca Y and Aurora Soto. Educated public schools Isle of Pines and Normal School of Havana 1905 and 1906. School teacher eight years and Secretary of School Board of Isle of Pines for seven years. Elected Mayor November 20, 1920, which position he occupies at the present time, his election having occurred through a popular vote of the Liberal Party. Elected twice as Worshipful Master F. & A. M. La Evangelista Lodge.

Married Edelmire Ring May 12, 1912, and has four children.

SIXTO LLORCA BLANCO, Captain of Port of Nueva Gerona. Residence Nueva Gerona. Born Isle of Pines July 6th, 1868. Son of Manuel Llorca and Belen Blanco. Educated public schools Isle of Pines. Engaged in business until 33 years of age in connection with charcoal kilns on the island. Came to the Custom House as Third Class Inspector April 8, 1904 and gradually advanced to Captain of the Port, which position he assumed July 25, 1915. He was appointed under Thomas Estrada Palma and served under Jose Miguel Gomez, General Mario G. Menocal and President Zayas. Retired from office June, 1922. Married Francisca Arregui, October 31, 1896.

DR. ANTONIO J. DE VIGNIER Y RIERA. Judge of Municipal Court (also correctional). Residence Nueva Gerona. Born Matanzas, Cuba, July 18, 1898. Son of Antonio J. de Vignier Y and Rosa Riera. Educated private Catholic schools Matanzas and Havana University. Consulting lawyer at the Governor's Palace at Matanzas 1918, which he resigned to fill the appointment of Judge at the Isle of Pines.

Married Dolores Peres April 10th, 1920.

JUSTO FOMOS BARONA, Notario (notary) Nueva Gerona. Born Bejucal, Cuba, December 21st, 1874. Son of Gasper Fomos and Adelaide (Eispart) Barona. Educated in the Blen Jesuit College, Havana. Clerk of Court under Gomez. Attorney for the Court of Jujacto at Bejucal 1901. Became notario 1902 at Santiago de las Vegas, which position he held for seven years. Came to the Isle of Pines June 24, 1909, as notario, which position he has filled

since that date up to the present time.

Married Mercedes Fontan Amat of Havana, December 31, 1896.

DR. LUIS A. JUAREZ. Medico Cirujano (physician and surgeon) Nueva Gerona. Born Santiago de Cuba. July 30, 1894. Son of Luis A. and Alicia Padral Juarez. Educated in the common and high schools of Barcelona, Spain, Havana University, Medical School of Havana, 1920; graduated as surgeon dentist and civil engineer; entered the Havana Hospital; later practiced in Barcelona, Spain, returning to Havana took a post graduate course as a physician and commenced practice in Havana in 1921 as physician and surgeon. Official Doctor for the Island.

LUIS M. ARREDONDO. Educator and Law Agent. Nueva Gerona. Born Cienfuegos, Cuba, September 12, 1866. Son of Luis M. and Mary Casanora Arredondo. Educated in the Manhattan College, New York City. Interpreter in the hotels of New York 1882 to 1885. Returned to Cuba and became private teacher in Cienfuegos, which position he held in 1900. Was public teacher at Guaynes, Cuba, until 1905, when he went to the Isle of Pines and engaged as English teacher and later as director and superintendent of the Nueva Gerona No. 1 School. Became Law Agent in 1919, which profession he practices in connection with his superintendency of the Spanish schools of the island.

JOSE MANENT Y JENO. Postmaster, Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines. Born Alquizar, Havana Province, Cuba, July 4, 1891. Son of Manent Y and Adelira Mercedes Jeno. Educated in the public schools of the Isle of Pines. Engaged in business in 1905 to 1907, as interpreter to Americans on the island. In 1913 was an employee at the Custom House in Los Indios, Isle of Pines. Appointed as Postmaster Isle of Pines, 1914, with continuous service up to the present time.

Married Andrea Gonzales of San Antonio de las Banos. 1913.

GEORGE LYON. Public reader, entertainer and horticulturist. Residence Vivijagua Beach. Born Ogdensburg, New York, July 30, 1850. Son of George and Jane C. (Judson) Lyon. Educated in the public schools of St. Joe, Missouri, Phillips Exeter Academy, Mass. One year at Annapolis, Md. Entered Harvard University 1875; teacher 1881. Post Graduate course Divinity School, Harvard. Greek student. Joined the Madison Square Theater Company in 1882. Gave up theatricals, resuming the clergy and was pastor of the Old Revere Church, Revere, Mass. Gave up the divinity and entered the St. Joe Mo. National Bank. Organized Lyon, Imler and Lyon, Bonded Abstractors Real Estate, Farm loans and Insurance, 1888. President of First National Bank. President Building and Loan Association, Nelson, Nebraska. Retired from business in 1922 to enter the Harvard University as special student. Was Colonel on the

staffs of Governor Holcombe and Governor Sheldon, Nebraska; also Major in the National Guard of that State.

Married Mary J. Harbine, Fairbury, Nebraska.

ARTHUR E. WILLIS. Proprietor and Publisher of the Isle of Pines Appeal. Residence Nueva Gerona. Born December 25, 1874, at Laprairie, Adams Co. (near Quincy) Illinois. Son of Don P. and Elizabeth (Whitestone) Willis. Educated at Butler, Bates County, Missouri, and Scarrett College. Engaged in business with R. G. Dun and Co. in St. Louis. Hotel clerk in Jefferson City, Mo. Assistant Secretary to Wm. J. Stone, Governor of Missouri, and Assistant Secretary to Governor Stevens. Private in Co. L. Second Regiment, Missouri Volunteers, Spanish-American War. Was promoted to corporal, then sergeant. Mustered out in 1899 and located in Havana as Property and Purchasing agent under Major Gen. Gorgeus, until 1902. Commission business in Havana until 1904. Went to Isle of Pines in 1904. Bought half interest in Isle of Pines Appeal.

Married Mrs. Kate Schmidt Gruppe on November 28, 1915 in Havana, Cuba.

WILLIAM J. MILLS. Steamship business. Residence Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines. Born Belville, Ontario, Canada, February 15th, 1859. Son of John and Eliza (McDonald) Mills. Educated in the public schools of New York State, where he came from Canada when eight years old. Engaged in the manufacturing of carriages at Syracuse, N. Y., in 1880, with the Lyons Mfg. Company. In 1889 became Vice President and General Manager Whitney Wagon Works of Syracuse, N. Y. In 1895 connected with H. H. Babcock Company of Watertown, N. Y., as Treasurer and General Manager. The largest builders of high class pleasure carriages in the United States. Came to the Isle of Pines in 1913 for health. Entered the steamship business in 1914 as Treasurer and General Manager of the Isle of Pines Steamship Company.

Married Anna Bennett Tomilson of Syracuse, N. Y.

JAMES A. HILL. Colonizer, Ranchman and Steamship business. Residence Santa Barbara, Isle of Pines. Born West Mecca, Ohio, April 17, 1859. Son of Thomas and Kate (Booth) Hill. Educated Grand River Institute, Austinburg, Ohio. Began work as school teacher in 1876. Engaged in the publishing business in Chicago in 1881. Moved to Baltimore, Md. 1883. Engaged in same business. Moved to New York in 1887 and became member of Peale and Hill, Publishers, 1896. Home Library Association. Library of the World's Best Literature. American Edition Encyclopedia Britannica. Engaged in colonization work in connection with the Isle of Pines in 1898. President of the Isle of Pines Company 1903. Director of the Isle of Pines Steamship Company 1904. In 1919 became President of same Company. Engaged in cattle raising 1921 as President of

the Santa Barbara Company in the Isle of Pines.

Married Carrie M. Coleman, Williamsfield, Ohio, January 20, 1885.

THOMAS E. ANDERSON—property owner, Isle of Pines (retired). Residence Nueva Gerona. Born Mt. Vernon, Lawrence County, Mo., July 28th, 1848. Son of Ira S. and Lydia (Dartmouth) Anderson. Educated in the public schools of Lawrence County, Missouri and Gillespie, Illinois. Engaged in the watchmaker's trade in Sedalia, Missouri until 1900, when he entered politics in Missouri and was chosen as elector at large for the Bryan campaign of 1896, receiving the largest vote ever polled for any officer in the State of Missouri up to that time. In 1901 moved to St. Louis and entered the firm of Mermod-Jaccard Jewelry Company (then known as the "Tiffany Store" of the west). Moved to the Isle of Pines in 1904. In 1906 was chairman of Territorial Convention for the purpose of electing officers to take charge of the island as soon as the title was adjusted. Was characterized in the New York and St. Louis papers as a Revolutionary leader on the Isle of Pines, causing much comment throughout the world. Planted one of the first grape fruit, orange and lemon groves on the island. In 1913 built a cement block of business stores in Nueva Gerona. Became interested in the Isle of Pines Company in 1904. Acquired several tracts of land in 1921 and the Santa Barbara Inn. Belongs to Santa Fe Lodge F. & A. M. and Chamber of Commerce.

Married Mrs. J. C. Tichenor of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., April 12, 1904.

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